ENGLAND’S GUESTS

Archive Edition

Researcher and author:

John Lindsay Robert Guest

M. Bus, Grad, Dip IR/HRM, B.Ed., B.A.

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The Guest family armorial shield pictured on the cover page of this book, features an azure chevron surrounded by three proper swan heads, embellished with three sable crosses moline. This design is faithfully derived from the original Guest arms granted in 1543. This remarkable heraldic representation from Layard and Guest families highlights the artistry of skilled craftsmen who made the arms publicly known. The royal coronet above the shield signifies the Guest family's mixed male and female lineage tracing back to monarchs Edward I and Eleanor of Castile (see Book 1).

FOREWORD

This Archive Edition of *England's Guests* preserves, with only minimal editorial intervention, the research manuscript from which the first edition of *England's Guests* and its companion study, *Ælfgyva as Ælfgyva*, subsequently developed.

It is published not as the final statement of the argument, but as a record of research in motion: the first upstream latches, the tentative connections, the mistaken identifications, the corrections they prompted, and the gradual development of a more disciplined method for reconstructing kinship before the establishment of stable hereditary surnames.

The investigation began with the later Gest and Guest families of England and moved backwards through King's Norton in Worcestershire and the poorly documented medieval generations towards the Domesday period found across the available literature. From there, the enquiry reached the man recorded as Saeric and the rare personal name Gest. Some later writers applied the form "Saeric Gest." The contemporary Domesday evidence, however, records Gest as a separate man and identifies him as the brother of Saric or Saeric at Laverstock. Recognising the importance of that distinction became one of several points at which the earlier reconstruction required reassessment.

This Archive Edition therefore does not constitute independent proof of every identity, relationship or line of descent proposed within it. Some mistakes, premature combinations and evidentiary overextensions have deliberately been left visible. They are retained because they demonstrate how an apparently reasonable conjunction of similar names, neighbouring or complementary estates, shared social environments, institutional associations and modern database allocations can lead even a careful researcher towards an identity merger that later source comparison cannot sustain.

There was no intention to introduce a false identity or construct a false genealogy. Nevertheless, intention does not determine evidentiary reliability. A normalised name, a modern database profile and a historically reconstructed person are not the same thing. Where those stages were once allowed to merge too readily, the resulting errors became part of the author's subsequent re-learning.

No third party required this disclosure or the publication of the earlier research manuscript. I have chosen to preserve and release it because concealing its limited but nonetheless false starts would diminish the educational value of the later work. The archive shows not only what was discovered, but how the investigation changed and how a useful normalisation could develop into a maximal biography, and how recognition of that process produced a more exacting method of historical and genealogical reconstruction.

Many discoveries and research leads contained in this edition remain valuable. Others have been qualified, revised or set aside in the later works. Readers should therefore approach the Archive Edition as a record of the developing enquiry rather than as the final evidentiary position.

The first edition of *England's Guests* will retain the broad family-history purpose of this work while presenting its findings in a clearer and more accurately graded form. Its companion volume, *Ælfgyva as Ælfgyva*, examines the Conquest-generation evidence in greater depth, distinguishing the wording of medieval sources from modern name normalisation, person allocation and cumulative genealogical reconstruction.

Read together, the Archive Edition, the revised *England's Guests* and *Ælfgyva as Ælfgyva* form a constructive research loop. The archive records the route by which the questions were found. The first edition presents the wider family-history reconstruction in its revised form. The companion study tests the Domesday and Conquest-generation evidence upon which the earliest part of that reconstruction depends.

This Archive Edition is offered to students, scholars, historians, genealogists and serious family researchers as a case study in historical reconstruction. It invites readers to test every proposed connection, to distinguish direct evidence from inference, and to remain alert to the dangers of name normalisation, database aggregation and unverified identity collapse.

Its errors are not presented as virtues. They are preserved because the route by which they were identified and corrected may help other researchers to recognise similar risks within their own work.

Yours sincerely,

John L. R. Guest
Author and Researcher
3 August 2026

EDITORIAL METHOD

From an editorial standpoint for this archives edition of the English Guests, and on the principle that the main purpose of this study is to make the content accessible, whilst preserving the general idiom of the original record(s), the compromise solution adopted in the main is as follows: spelling and punctuation have largely been modernised, except for surnames in which they appear in records, including the variation found within documents attributed to a specific individual (e.g., surnames Guest [Guess, Ghest, Ghuest, Geast, Gest, Geste, le Gest, le Gist, Gist, Gast and Ges[t]lyng, Gestling, Guest*ling* [Guest/Gest – "*ling/lyng* [family]), etc.

Ancient Saxon England male personal names, such as Saeric, Saric, Seric, Ethelred, Ealdred, Edric, etc, are attributed with spelling variation in documents like the Great Domesday Book with the Old Englis letter "AE" "Æ" and further vary in earlier and contemporary documents and records such as: Ælfric, Aluric, Aelfric, Ælfric. Alric, Alrich, Alricus, Alricvs, Alrist, Elric, Elricus, Ælric, Ælricus.

To be expected, written translations found across the literature are numerous, as well as corrupted spellings. Three translation authorities are referred to in this study. They are the Original Latin Version; the Phillimore Translation; and the primary Alecto Translation.
If in doubt, the researcher leaned towards matching the spelling found in a recently discovered early publication, document, or record translated by any of these authorities.[1] [2] [3]

The Anglo-Saxon female name "Ælfgyva" is uniquely cited with this original spelling, found in scene-15 of the Bayeux Tapestry. In contrast, Eadgyth corresponds to the modern English name "Edith" (Ædgyth), but in this study, it is referred exclusively to the Anglo-Saxon form "Ædgyth", and without being associated with any other Anglo-Saxon female personal names by this author in this book.

The same editorial method applied in the case for selected place names, where an older form was judged worthy of record. The significant pace name for the Guest family, "King's Norton' was also known before 1468 as "Kingnortune" and/or "Nortune," in the Great Domesday Book 1086 (GDB, 1086) and this had to be discovered in order to advance the Guest family trace prior to 1468.

The place name Guestling in Sussex, England, holds great significance in the history of the Guest family. This village, named after hundreds in which it resides, is fairly accepted from analysis of the available evidence to have been named by Saeric's direct ecclesiastical ancestor, who seems to have held the land and raised his immediate family and future generations there.

Guestling, Sussex, England was also known in ancient documents by the spelling "Gestelinges" (11th Century); "Gestling" (Common in early medieval documents) and "Guestling" (Modern standard spelling). In all practical sense it remains part and parcel of present-day Hastings and once spelled Hæstingas (Old English: The followers of Hæsta) Hastinges (Common Norman, 12th century spellings); Hastingas (Latinised); Hasten de Hastyngges (12th/13th-century spelling); Hastinge; Hæstingaceastre. This earlier spelling was used in Anglo-Saxon Chronicle for the place Hastings, Sussex, possibly referring to its original nearby fortified location before the old village inundated rising sea levels.

Also to further enhance accessibility and comprehension of pre-patronymic family connections for readers interested in the target Guest family, the surname "Gest", is sometimes included and added to the personal names of Saeric's direct patrilineal ancestors and their spouses.

Saeric, however, not identified in any contemporary records as Saeric Gest. It is his brother, whose personal name is Gest, that appears in the Domesday Book, creating a valuable connection among the three sons of Aleuea, also referred to in Old English as "Ælfgyva."

[1] Williams, A. & Martin, G. H. (eds.). Domesday Book: A Complete Translation (London: Penguin, 2003).
[2] Morris, J. (General ed.), Domesday Book (Chichester: Phillimore, 1975-1992), vol. 10 Cornwall.
[3] Thamesreach, C. (2013). Personal Names in the Domesday Book.

This name is recognised in Domesday as the mother of Saeric and his brother Sigeraed, who is also referred to other documents as Sigeraed/Sired of Chilham and the son of Sibi of Chilham, another canon of Dover.

Thus, the Guest/Gest surname seems to have been adopted several generations after Saeric, originating from his brother "Gest" and derived from the primary source, the Domesday Book of 1086.

Throughout this book, the author intentionally avoids referring to Saeric and his collateral relatives pre-Domesday Book by full names, such as Saeric Gest or Saeric Guest, because this would be incorrect. Instead, the family name is only used in relation to Saeric and Sired/Sigeraed's brother "Gest," as noted during the period of the Domesday Book and earlier.

The terms "Gest" and "Guest" will be utilised in a more contemporary context, connecting back to the time of Saeric and his brother. However, to enhance readers' understanding of the familiar ties of subjects in this book—specifically regarding pre-Domesday Book and pre-Conquest family ancestry traced back to Saeric and his two brothers—the author also specifies the nature of relationships others have to them.

This helps readers understand that we are discussing a subject who is one of the three brother lineal ancestors, whether prospect, probable, or confirmed, by introducing them as a "paternal" ancestor (father's line), a "maternal" ancestor (mother's line), or a "cognatic" ancestor, which encompasses connections found through either parent, serving as a northbound lineal ancestor found on a mixed male/female ascending line.

It is historically inaccurate to assert that Saeric, his brothers, and his paternal ancestors were known as Guest/Gest, as they lived in an era before surnames were established, predating the Domesday Book, and is no supporting evidence for this claim.

Although the name Gest is rare and is an example of a future derived from ancestors listed in Domesday, it further suggests the original English roots of the surname Guest linked to Saeric and his brother Sired/Sigeraed.

It mainly functioned as a family name some considerable time after 1086 and was retrospectively applied by some historians. It only became a patronymic from about the 12th century. Despite this limitation, one should not fall into the trap of believing that the Guest lineage was untraceable before the three brothers—Saeric, Sired/Sigeraed, and Gest lived—as this is not accurate.

Rather, it should be recognised that in a reconstituted family kinship research sense, no surnames were applied or implied prior to 1086 for the Guest family's ancestry, and that it is though genealogical scientific rigour best described as reconstructing kinship groups through records triangulation, a methodological framework for family reconstitution that the familia trace continued.[4]

Thus, the method of precise identification is utilised in editorial practices it throughout this book concerning naming conventions Guest pre, during and after the conquest.

In other sections, specific words and phrases retain their original spelling and wording for accuracy.

[4] Attachment A - Reconstructing kinship groups through records triangulation: A methodological framework for family reconstitution.

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PART 1 – INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW

This sixth instalment of a genealogical and historical book series, which forms a complete loop as part of seven volumes, traces the lineage today's known Guest family members back to before the 1066 conquest. It further explores the Guest family's roots in England, starting with Gyles Guest (. 1498-1557) and his father, John Guest (c. 1470-1537) of Handsworth, going back further patronymically to a time when family names were not widely established.

This continuation of the Guest paternal saga picks up where Books 1 and 5 left off. Readers will find that the timeline from 1751 to 1557 in Part 10 overlaps with the narratives in Books 1, Guest Paternal History, and Book 5, Guest Biscuits Family Heritage, showcasing the significant influence of three Guest males who, despite having no descendants, left a lasting impact on British-Irish relations and the reconciliation of faith between Elizabeth I’s Church of England and the Church in 1559.

Their and actions provide context for the family's liberal, free-thinking, and humanistic tendencies both before and after 1559, which may explain how this small population survived, avoided extinction, and contributed positively to the diverse communities they settled in.

The genealogical journey beyond Gyles Guest (c. 1498-1557) resumes, uncovering more about the family's heritage through his father John, brother Thomas Gest, and uncle William Gest (c. 1429-est. 1493) prior to1468. Recent historical discoveries illuminate their origins in 14th century Yorkshire, revealing their migration Shropshire and southeast England. This narrative sheds light on how Saeric's genealogical legacy from 1066 became established in the mid-west England and details migrations from an ancient family seat in Sussex to Shropshire around 1053.

These family members are also connected to ancestors who survived the Heresy Trials in Coventry in 1511 and 1512, who were part of the late English Lollard Community of Cloth Merchants, and to the shifts instigated by Henry VIII in 1536, which must now be considered as premature Anglicans.

In Sussex, a distinctive viewpoint on historical events is presented from the family's perspective in Hastings. The family matriarch, Alueua, may be identified with Ælfgyva, as depicted in Scene 15 of the Bayeux Tapestry. Domesday her as the mother of Saeric and Sired (Sigeraed) of Chilham, brothers of another person named "Gest." This type of record, along with analysis and synthesis of other authentic records and reconstructions of related matters, reveals potential deeper English heritage and bloodline connected to the unification of the Wessex and Godwin families that cannot be overlooked.

This book reconstructs Saeric's ancestry and aims to bridge the connection to John Guest (c. 1470-) of Handsworth, born in the Parish of Row Heath, King’s Norton, Worcestershire. It establishes links to Saeric Gest based on evidence from known Guest males in England, thereby connecting John Guest (c. 1470) with Saeric in a far more continuous and fully articulated way than previous paired links have afforded in the literature. It extends upstream collaterally, making clear that Saeric's brother's personal name is indeed Gest, and their other brother, also listed in the Domesday Book, is how Saeric came to be named by some historians as Saeric Gest, as historian Mark Lower.

The book does not claim to present an absolute lineage but instead addresses the gap in information about the English Guests. It clearly states that, based on available records, the identified Guest males are likely direct descendants of Saeric, connecting in a straight line to John Guest of Handsworth and vice versa.

Furthermore, it outlines the family's heritage and historical perspectives at various in time, while also maintaining a valuable space for testing theories and reporting on the plausible, possible, probable, as well as unsubstantiated propositions based on new discoveries. For example, it delves into the lineage of Saeric's ancestors, along with his siblings and other relatives, providing readers with a more comprehensive and completed account of the information presented in this book.

It is important to note that this book is therefore just one part of a seven-volume series, where "Ælfgyva as Ælfgyva" builds on some of the more ancient familiar extensions as possibilities and probabilities discussed here.

To fully appreciate the distinctions in this book, it is recommended to read "England’s Guests" first, as it lays the groundwork for understanding the genealogical and historical supported by the findings and conclusions in “Ælfgyva as Ælfgyva."

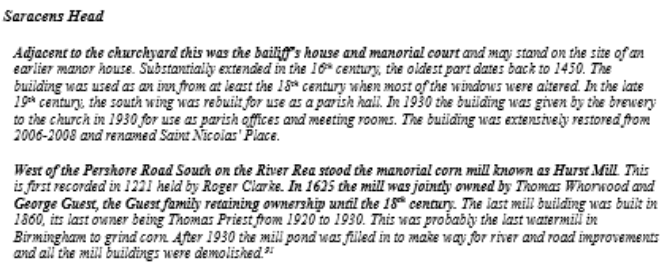
PART 2 – GUESTS OF MIDLAND ENGLAND, 1577-1053

Giles Gest (c. 1490-1557) as brother of John junior, Richard senior & Laurance Gest

In his 2017 book, Dr. Daniel Beaver, identifies two Guest males the present researcher recognises to be Gyles Guest (c. 1498-1557), eldest brother, John Guest (c. 1490-1561) junior; and secondly, Roger Guest (c. 1520-1586), John's son. Alternatively, allowing for the possibility Roger is the grandson of William Guest, who became heir of the Guest Manor at King's Norton, Worcestershire. Other evidence for this discrete immediate family unit ties in with where Book 1 and Book 5, left off, and subsequently stepped out in this Book 6, John Gest junior, the brother of Richard Guest (c.1493-) senior, as well as Laurence and Gyles Guest and other identified family members, involved in Lollard of Coventry heresy trials of 1511 and 1512. [5] [6] [7]

This familia relationship backed by multiple sources includes Richard Gest (senior) (Richard Guest, c. 1493-) as well as his brother John Gest (junior) (John Guest c. 1490-1561, junior) involved in the heresay trials in 1511 and 1512. The same John Gest (1480-1561) in his capacity as the executor of his deceased brother Giles Guest's estate from 1557 engaged as overseer to manage Giles commercial business as a clothier, cloth manufacture and retail business operator, one Roger Gest (c. 1520-1586).

Found by Beaver's lead, is Roger, noted as deceased in 1586, buried in Row Heath in the parish of Northfield, King's Norton, on November 2, 1586. [8] [9] "Roger" is among the family's early history favourite personal names, having a rich history tied back to the family seat in Highley (Lega),[10] Shropshire.[11] His descent from William Gest, who became heir of King's Norton makes for the possible lineal alignment of George Guest of King's Norton, of the 18th century and further tied as part of the family manor, "Saracens Head" to be a direct descendent of Roger, and more certain a direct descendant of his grandfather William Guest (c. 1429-), heir of the same property in 1468.[12]



Saracens Head

***Adjacent to the churchyard this was the bailiff's house and manorial court** and may stand on the site of an earlier manor house. Substantially extended in the 16th century, the oldest part dates back to 1450. The building was used as an inn from at least the 18th century when most of the windows were altered. In the late 19th century, the south wing was rebuilt for use as a parish hall. In 1930 the building was given by the brewery to the church in 1930 for use as parish offices and meeting rooms. The building was extensively restored from 2006-2008 and renamed Saint Nicolas' Place.*

***West of the Pershore Road South on the River Rea stood the manorial corn mill known as Hurst Mill.** This is first recorded in 1221 held by **Roger Clarke. In 1625 the mill was jointly owned by Thomas Whorwood and George Guest, the Guest family retaining ownership until the 18th century.** The last mill building was built in 1860, its last owner being Thomas Priest from 1920 to 1930. This was probably the last watermill in Birmingham to grind corn. After 1930 the mill pond was filled in to make way for river and road improvements and all the mill buildings were demolished.[21]*

[5] Refer, footnote 62, page 355, by Schrimer, E. (2017). Coventry Trial Conversational Lollardy: Reading the Margins of MS Bodley 978. Manuscript Studies: A Journal of the Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies, Volume 2, Number 2, Fall 2017, pp. 328-368. Article. Published by University of Pennsylvania Press.

[6] Dyer, C. (2012, pp. 44-45). "London and Beyond." Did peasants need markets and towns? Thee experience of late medieval England. In Institute of Historical Research, University of London, School of Advanced Study.

[7] "Chapter 2. The Lollards of Coventry". Gender and Heresy: Women and Men in Lollard Communities, 1420-1530, Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2010, pp. 22-46.

[8] Beaver, D. (2017, p. XV).) (PhD. "The Accounts Book of Giles Geast Charity, Tewkesbury 1558-1891". (Extant) has the many variant spellings of the modern English Guest family name probably pronounced (always) as "Guest", based on the orthographic evidence.

[9] Ibid, Beaver, D. (2017, p. XV). See Beaver's citation, GA W 1561/84.

[10] C. D. Buck, (1849, p27). "A Dictionary 01 Selected Synonyms in the Principal Indo-European Languages (1949), p. 27, for the words in Latin, Sanskrit, and the Baltic languages, informs Lega (Latin Leog), later Lege/Lee, Leah is attributed to be the analogous common medieval term for a woodland clearing. C.f., "Huglei, old English term for clearing Huga", practically the same, see: Ibid, Mills (1991).

[11] Also spelled Huggalea or Huglei in GDB, "Lega" and Leah" spelling, com geographically adopted patronymics post 1066 conquest. See: Williams, Dr Ann. And G.H. Martin, Eds., Domesday Book A Complete Translation. London: Penguin, 1992; Mills, A.D., (1991). Dictionary of English Place-Names. Oxford: Oxford University Press; and Reaney, P.H & R.M. Wilson (1991). A Dictionary of English Surnames.

[12] Dargue, W. (2009). History of Birmingham. "King's Norton". Online: https://billdargue.jimdofree.com/placenames-gazetteer-a-to-y/places-k/kings-norton/.

In the absence of contrary evidence, it appears that the Guest family manor and mill in King’s Norton is the old manor so described above by William Dragie. The property’s proximity to St Laurence Church, parish of Northfield, King’s Norton is very close and shown below. St Laurence is where many of Willam Gest and his lineal ancestor George Guest’s offspring are buried. The present author further suspects, it was John Gest (c. 1468-c1537) senior’s home parish and why his son Laurence was given the name: [13]

From the author's research, it is noted that the building above, old Inn, once the Hurst Mill, was situated west of Pershore Road along the River Rea in King’s Norton, closely associated with the Guest family. In 1625, the mill was co-owned by Thomas Whorwood and George Guest, who is believed to be a direct descendant of William Guest (c. 1479-1543), the heir to the Guest manor house, or residence, found to have been named “Berkely” in 1468, and perhaps any associated lands in King’s Norton.

The family, descending from George Guest, maintained ownership of the mill until the 18th century.[14] Recognised one of the last watermills in the area to grind corn, the final structure was built in 1860 and demolished after 1930.

The Guest's Hurst Mill was part of a network of mills along the River Rea and Bourn Brook, including the nearby Hawkesley Mill, Northfield Mill, and Wychall Mill, which catered to the predominantly rural landscape of King's Norton in the 17th century. The Hawkesley Mill, associated with Richard Hawkesley, is likely an ancestor of Margaret Guest, née Hawkes, of King’s Norton.

She was the of John Guest (c. 1470-c.1537), who acquired the Manor of Handsworth in Staffordshire after Margaret Guest, nee Hawkes, the last surviving descendant of the Hawkes/Hawksley family from King’s Norton and Handsworth and her husband were awarded possession by the Crown’s court in 1492.

[13] Ibid, Names of people in Parish Register from St Laurence of Northfield. See: see: Lee, Leigh, Leighe, also Hul[le], also Hawkes Online: https://www.freereg.org.uk/freereg_contents/5a9ed123f493fdbfcb9c7c15/unique_register_names?locale=en.
[14] 'Economic and Social History: Mills', in A History of the County of Warwick: Volume 7, the City of Birmingham. Edited by W B Stephens (London, 1964), British History Online, accessed February 17, 2026, https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/warks/vol7/pp253-269.

Edmund Guest 1514-1577 brought into Elizabeth I's inner sanctum

Was Bishop Edmund Guest (1514-1577 invited into Elizabeth I's inner circle before 1559 because of ecclesiastical and familial background, as well as her objectives to stabilise the emerging Church of England? The author believes this to be the case. The rationale for this stance is outlined below after a review of the available evidence.

Firstly, the phrase "Cometh the hour, cometh the man"[15] comes to mind and aptly describes individuals who rise to the occasion, particularly highlighting Edmund's partnership with Mathew Parker in fulfilling Queen Elizabeth I's aim of stabilising the emerging Church of England and mending ties with the Church of Rome.

Recent genealogical findings in this study provide fresh insights into the scarce references regarding the Guest family and Bishop Edmund's rise from obscurity in 1559. On aggregate the fresh materials suggests that historians may have missed vital elements of late history and the 1066 conquest, leaving the true origins of the Guest family ambiguous and questioning why Edmund emerged from relative anonymity to become one of Elizabeth I's favoured Anglican supporters.

Professor Tom Licence, a medieval history and literature scholar at the University of East Anglia, argues that misinterpretations of Old English records have created confusion among historians and obscured certain historical aspects. Supporting this, Professor Michael Lewis, head of the portable antiquities scheme at the British Museum, states that these findings indicate much remains to be discovered about the events of 1066.

This present author as researcher concurs with Licence and Lewis, emphasising that tracing genealogical records and personal biographies in relation to significant historical events can clarify past occurrences and highlight individuals often overlooked by historians, who tend to focus on the lives and roles of monarchs and conquerors, resulting in a loss of context and understanding of those who played key roles.

This document outlines the lineage of the Guest family, tracing the bloodline of Bishop Edmund Guest (Gest) from parent stock John Guest of Handsworth, born in King's Norton, Worcestershire, circa 1460.

From 1511 to 1559, Edmund's direct and collateral relatives, including the sons and spouses of John Gest, formed a close-knit family that likely went into hiding until Henry VIII recognised ecclesiastical and genealogical significance around 1536, when he sought to shift his kingdom's faith from the Church of Rome to Protestantism. In 1536, Gest, a 21-year-old priest, a well-documented lineage tracing back to Ethelred II and Edith of York.

It is hard to conceive, after examining all of the evidence to follow, that the Crown was not aware of the Guests deep-rooted involvement with the pre-Anglican Church of Rome, dating back to Saxon England times and their collapsed bloodline descending from the House of Wessex. Isolated for two decades from 1511 to 1536 to the family's significant association with the Lollard Community in Coventry, which included charges against several relatives for heresy, they swung back into favour with the Crown by 1536.

[15] It is a saying that sounds biblical, but the closest we get is from John 4:23. "But the hour cometh, and is now." Then there is an old English proverb, "Opportunity maketh the man."

Around that time, Henry VIII saw value in the Lollard traditions, albeit not articulated in Lollard terms. Often referred to as pre-Protestantism by some niche historians, Guest family is best viewed today as Anglicans practicing early forms of Anglicism.

Initially, the heresy charges against the Guest family in 1511/12 may seem unexpected; however, they were actually prosecuted for what we would now recognise as modernist views and early support for the establishment of the Church of England. The Guest family of that time embraced contemporary values such as religious tolerance, the recognition of women as leaders in both community and faith, and a strong belief in making the Bible accessible to, rather than solely in Latin. Edmund, a member of the generation following the Coventry Lollards, along with Matthew Parker, Elizabeth I in negotiating the Church of Rome's acceptance of the Church of England and successfully advocated for significant reforms with the Marian Commissioners in 1559, rooted in the early Anglicism beliefs of Edmund's family predecessors.

Plausible is the Church of Rome and Marian Commissioners were aware of the Guest Church of Rome back to southeast Saxon England pre-1066 conquest, making a strategic decision for Elizabeth I, who recognised the value of plucking Edmund Guest from obscurity to help her achieve the lasting objective of re-stabilizing relations, at least diplomatically, with the Church of Rome and stabilizing her Church of England.

Edmund pictured below, son of Thomas Guest (c. 1490-aft. 1540), second cousin of Gyles Guest (c. 1498-1557), and brother of Elizabeth Millington, nee Guest recognised as close family members by Caroline Litzenberger in her 1998 research: [16]

1A (left). Memorial brass to Edmund Geste, now in the north-transept, placed in Salisbury Cathedral by his executor, Giles Eastcourt. The only known contemporary representation of the bishop (artist unknown). From Dugdale. 1B (right). Modern rubbing of the same memorial brass.

[16] Litzenberger, C. (1998, p. 91). The Coming of Protestantism to Elizabethan Tewkesbury. In: Collinson, P., Craig, J. (eds) The Reformation in English Towns, 1500–1640. Themes in Focus. Palgrave, London.

Bishop Edmund Gest 1514-1577 likely maternal bloodline

Elizabeth Gest, née Corby, the daughter of Agnes Corby, is tentatively identified as the wife of Edmund's father, Thomas Gest (c. 1490-), who was from Tewkesbury. She is also possibly the mother of Edmund's sister, Elizabeth Millington, née Guest. Edmund served as a Bishop and Chief Almoner under Queen Elizabeth I, playing a vital role in negotiating reforms with the Roman Catholic Church during her reign, including the introduction of the Bible in English.

His father and sister, along with Elizabeth's, Gyles Guest (c. 1498-1557),[17] who was the youngest brother of John Guest junior, Richard Guest senior, and Laurence of Handsworth, are known to have contributed to the spread of Protestantism in Tewkesbury. A link to the Lollard community in Yorkshire is suggested by a list of family members facing trial for heresy in Coventry in 1511/12. Thomas Gest (c. 1490-), presumably married to Elizabeth, along with their son, the young Edmund Guest, moved to Yorkshire for his education.

By 1540, Thomas may have been widowed, and his daughter Elizabeth Guest, later Millington, settled in Tewkesbury with Thomas's cousin, Gyles Guest. In 1557, the year Gyles died, his elder brother, John Gest (c. 1490-1561) junior, likely served as the executor of his will. It is reasonable to speculate that these two branches of the Guest family left Birmingham's Handsworth area for Yorkshire around 1511/12 to escape the repercussions of the heresy trials, with Gyles more focused on his ambitions as a clothier and merchant than a strictly religious reform agenda. Yorkshire was a preferred refuge, being outside the reach of Coventry and home to Thomas's mother-in and her Corby and Bandisby families.

The Tewkesbury connection

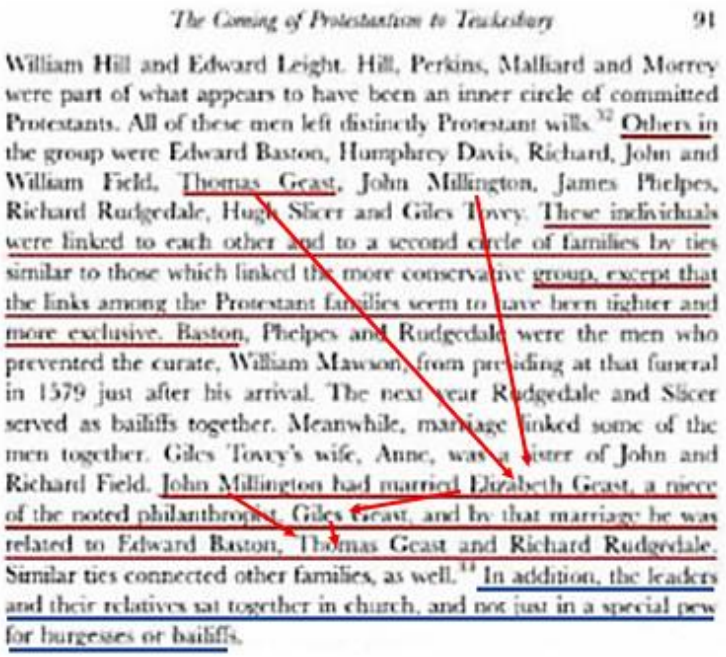
Edmund's sister Elizabeth Millington, nee Gest, settled in Tewkesbury, with her father and his cousin Gyles Guest (Giles Gest) about 1540. Caroline Litenberger in her 1998 research,[18] recognised these close family ties, and the present researcher rather than naming Giles Guest, Elizabeth's uncle, finds Elizabeth is Giles Guest's 1st cousin, once removed of a younger generation.

The extract which follows overleaf is taken from Litzenberger's 1998 research. She highlights the close familial ties various members of the Guest family, who brought Protestantism to Tewkesbury around 1540. It confirms that Gyles Guest is more likely than not, the brother of John Gest (Geast) junior, who served as the executor of Gyles' in 1557, as evidenced by findings from Dr. Daniel Beaver's 2017 research. Beaver also noted that John Geast (Gest) junior passed away in 1561.[19]

[17] The present researcher calculates Elizabeth Millington, nee Guest is Gyles Guest's first cousin once removed. Whereby it is common to have a generational older cousin once removed to the called inside the family as an uncle or aunt.

[18] Litzenberger, C. (1998, p. 91). The Coming of Protestantism to Elizabethan Tewkesbury. In: Collinson, P., Craig, J. (eds) The Reformation in English Towns, 1500–1640. Themes in Focus. Palgrave, London.

[19] Ibid, Beaver, D. (2017, p. XV).



The Coming of Protestantism to Tewkesbury 91

William Hill and Edward Leight. Hill, Perkins, Malliard and Morrey were part of what appears to have been an inner circle of committed Protestants. All of these men left distinctly Protestant wills.[32] Others in the group were Edward Baston, Humphrey Davis, Richard, John and William Field, Thomas Geast, John Millington, James Phelpes, Richard Rudgedale, Hugh Slicer and Giles Tovey. These individuals were linked to each other and to a second circle of families by ties similar to those which linked the more conservative group, except that the links among the Protestant families seem to have been tighter and more exclusive. Baston, Phelpes and Rudgedale were the men who prevented the curate, William Mawson, from presiding at that funeral in 1579 just after his arrival. The next year Rudgedale and Slicer served as bailiffs together. Meanwhile, marriage linked some of the men together. Giles Tovey's wife, Anne, was a sister of John and Richard Field. John Millington had married Elizabeth Geast, a niece of the noted philanthropist, Giles Geast, and by that marriage he was related to Edward Baston, Thomas Geast and Richard Rudgedale. Similar ties connected other families, as well.[33] In addition, the leaders and their relatives sat together in church, and not just in a special pew for burgesses or bailiffs.

The Yorkshire connection

First and foremost, John Gest junior and his wife Joan Guest, and John's younger brother Richard Gest senior, were all key figures in the pre-Protestant and the Lollard community heresy trials. They are the sons of John and Margaret Gest nee Hawkes of Handsworth near Birmingham. It is difficult to conceive Elizabeth I was unaware of this and that John Gest senior of Handsworth was the brother of Edmund's grandfather, Thomas Gest (c.1468-), Lord of the Guest Manor, King's Norton, Worcestershire.

Given the facts Edmund survived the 5 year reign of Queen Mary 1554-1559 whilst Princess Elizabeth with powerful allies waited for change, and he then rose to be, a favourite of Elizabeth I from 1559 and paired with Mathew Parker to achieve Elizabeth's reform goals constructively with the Church of Rome underscores Elizabeth I also favoured Edmund because of the Guest family's ancient and enduring ecclesial ties to the Church of Rome long before events in Coventry 1511/12.

Edmund mother, possibly born a Brandisby, is suspected to be the wife of his father Thomas Gest (c.1490-) late of Tewkesbury, and earlier of Yorkshire and born King's Norton. Elizabeth Gest, speculatively nee Brandisby, also the mother of Edmund's overlooked sister Elizabeth Millington, nee Gest. It is theorised that Edmund and Elizabeth's maternal grandmother, mother of Elizabeth, Thomas's wife is Agnes Corby. It is she who married Yorkshire man, Mr Bandisby son of Dr. John Brandisby.[20]

Edmund's mother is thought to be Elizabeth, daughter of Agnes Corby, whose maiden name was Corby, before marrying Mr. Brandisby, a notable figure, John Colby from Yorkshire, who lived in 1494. He may also be Agnes's father, Dr John Brandisby thus serving as the maternal grandfather of Elizabeth and her brother Edmund. If Agnes Corby is maiden Agnes Brandisby her husband is likely to be John Corby who served as the Chaplain of the Guild of Corpus Christi in York [21] and was active in pursuits similar to those of the Guest family and also connected to Lollard Community in Coventry.

[20] Research continues to confirm or refute the Guest's Corby- Bandisby connection.

[21] Collins, F. (1889, p. 40). The Yorkshire Archaeological and Topographical Association Record Series Vol. 6: Index of wills in the York Registry, 1389 to 1514." Dec. 30, 1495. Colby, John, chaplain of the Guild of Corp. Christ., York, Apl. 20, 1494."

The Guest family's involvement in the Coventry heresy trials 1511/2

All of the individuals mentioned above are connected by blood to the Lollard Community involved in the heresy trials of Coventry in 1511 and 1512. During these trials, John and Margaret's two elder sons, Richard Guest senior and John Guest junior, along with their wife Joan Guest (Gest) were tried, repented, and escaped execution.

Additionally, Elizabeth and her mother, Agnes Corby, were part of the same community, although Elizabeth is not Richard's wife. This study suggests that Elizabeth may be the wife of Thomas Guest, who is the first cousin of Edmund Guest, making Agnes his maternal grandmother. Notably, all mentioned, except for Edmund, his father Thomas, and cousin Gyles, were defendants in the Lollard Community of Coventry heresy trials, highlighting significance within that community.

While no direct link is found to claim Henry VIII's made these practices fundamental to his religious reform, the Coventry Martyrs represented a long-standing, native anticlerical tradition that softened the ground for the rapid, state-mandated Protestant changes of the 1530s and 1540s.

These practices above synonymous with Anglicism are perhaps even more visible in the time of Henry VIII's daughter Elizabeth I, who secured with the able assistance of Bishop Edmund Guest 1514-1577 and his level ecclesial peers in particular Mathew Parker, the Church of England for the peoples of England through constructive negotiations with the Church of Rome's Marian commissioners in 1559/60.

Although the Church of England became an independent national church in 1534 under Henry VIII, breaking from Rome for political and marital reasons, it was further solidified by Elizabeth I's 1559 settlement, which combined Protestant doctrine with traditional Catholic structures (such as episcopacy and liturgy) to create a "middle way" intended for national stability. David Selwyn dedicates pages of his work to Edmund Guest, referring to him as the "Cambridge Don," which is also featured in the title of his research. [22]

Edmund Guest 1514-1577 as chaplain to Archbishop Matthew Parker, is acknowledged in history as a diplomatic and conciliatory thinker who played a crucial role in helping Elizabeth I achieve her goal of reconciling and stabilising the Church of England's relations with the Church of Rome in 1559.[23]

[22] Selwyn, D. G. (1938). "Edmund Geste and His Books: Reconstructing the Library of a Cambridge Don and Elizabethan Bishop. Image source above form Selwyn, 1938, before page 1.
[23] On This Day In 1577 – Death of Edmund Guest, Bishop of Salisbury, February 28th 2015, Tudor Chronicles. https://thetudorchronicles.wordpress.com/

Extent of the family's involvement as members of the Lollard Community of Coventry 1511

Consulting the 1995 research work by Shannon McSheffrey's 1995,[24] it is learned that not only were the Guests involved in the Coventry Lollard heresay trial of 1511 and 1512 so too were close familia relatives. Whereas the relevant information about the Guests is highlighted across several pages extracted from McSheffrey's 1995 work:[25]

At the core of the women's group in Coventry were Alice Rowley, Joan Warde, Joan Smyth, Agnes Jonson, Agnes Yong, Juliana Yong, Agnes de Bakehouse, Margaret Grey, Elizabeth Gest| Agnes Corby, Agnes Brown, the wife of Bromley, Rose Furnour, and Mother Margaret. Many of the women in this group were single or widowed[47] — all but Joan Smyth, Margaret Grey, and Elizabeth Gest fall into this category. Others were married, but only two women who had strong connections to this group were married to other Lollards (Joan Gest and the recently widowed wife of Roger Bromley). Bromley's wife had been Alice Rowley's servant and was often

present with Alice, Agnes de Bakehouse, and Robert Silkby in the home of Mother Margaret, and her husband communicated often with male Lollards, including Roger Landesdale and Robert Silkby.[48] Other women, Joan Smyth, Elizabeth Gest, Margaret Grey, Margery Locock, the wife of Bluet, Isabella Trussell, and Katherine Edmund, were married to men not known to be suspected of Lollardy. Some of these women became involved in Lollardy because of family connections rather than through their current husbands: Joan Smyth's first husband, Richard Landesdale, had converted her; Elizabeth Gest's mother was Agnes Corby; and Margaret Grey's mother was Agnes Jonson.[49]

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Other women were perhaps not as exclusive in their contacts, but the readings and discussions that these women attended were either all-female or mostly female gatherings.[62] The bishop's court seems to have thought of these women as a discrete unit as well. Six women appeared together before the bishop on 22 January 1512: Agnes Jonson, Agnes de Bakehouse, Agnes Yong, Agnes Corby, Agnes Brown, and Elizabeth Gest|[63] Similarly, Alice Rowley and Joan Warde were to perform their penances together, although Joan's was more severe.[64]

[24] McSheffrey, S. (1995). "Gender and Heresy". Women and Men in Lollard Communities, 1420- 1530. University of Pennsylvania Press. Philadelphia, USA.
25 Ibid, McSheffrey, S. (1995, p. 30).

63. Reg. G. Blyth, fo1. 99V.Some of the other examinations, abjurations, and penances of the accused were arranged in Blyth's register or court book in a way that may indicate that they were grouped together: Joan Gest and her husband abjured[26] together, and Juliana Yang (age twenty) abjured along with another young offender, John Bull (age seventeen). Lich. Ct. Bk., fols. 13r, 14r, 23V; Reg. G. Blyth, fo1.99r:[27]

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another. The number of female Lollards who had children also involved in the movement is especially striking. Besides Mother Villers and her three children, other mother-child relationships include Agnes and Juliana Yong; Agnes Corby and Elizabeth Gest; Agnes Jonson and Margaret Grey; Joan Smyth and two daughters, one of whom was the wife of Northopp; Alice Lye and William Lodge; and Agnes Brown and daughter.[67] There were other family relationships as well: John Harris and Bluet's wife were brother and sister; Thomas Lieff was son-in-law to Margaret Landesdale; John Bull was the nephew of John Phisicion; Joan Smyth was probably the sister-in-law of Roger Landesdale; and Agnes Brown was possibly the sister-in-law of Roger Brown.[68] The Coventry Lollard community was unusual in that women were more likely than men to have a family member involved in the movement; other Lollard communities show the opposite pattern.[69] This reflects and explains the relatively strong role women played in Coventry Lollardy, as family relationships may have been particularly important for bringing women into the community.

Another potentially influential relationship that recurs in the records is that between servant and employer. Some Lollards were converted or taught by their employers: Katherine Baker was reportedly instructed by her mistress Alice Flexall (otherwise unknown); Joan Gest learned her heresy from her master, John Smyth; and Robert Hachet had a hand in the instruction of Rose Furnour. Other Lollards had servants who were Lollards, although no indication is given as to whether they were converted by their employers or were already Lollards when they went into service. Alice Rowley had two servants, the wife of Bromley and Margaret White. Joan Smyth's son-in-law Richard Northopp, mercer, used to be her servant (or perhaps more correctly, the apprentice of Joan's husband, draper Richard Smyth).[70]

The activities of the women were no different from those of the men: gatherings of Lollards, big or small, revolved around the reading of books and discussions about the sacrament of the eucharist, images, pilgrimages, and giving alms to the poor. Reading was particularly important, and at least five of the women amongst the Coventry Lollards — Agnes Jonson, Alice Rowley, Mother Villers, Juliana Yong, and Thomasina Bradeley[71] — were literate. This was a remarkably high rate of literacy among women; unlike most women in other communities, Coventry women did not have to rely on men to read their texts to them.[72]

Many more than these five women possessed books, which they passed around to one another and to others in the community. Some Lollards

[26]Solemnly renounce.
[27] Ibid, McSheffrey, S. (1995, p. 30, *fn*., 63.

indeed children and that it is very unlikely that such activity could have given them leadership roles. Elizabeth, daughter of a cooper named Blake, aged about thirteen, could recite by heart many Gospels and Epistles, according to Elizabeth Mathew.[72] Similarly, the daughter of a man named Wily could recite chapter twenty-four of Matthew's Gospel and a Lollard book called "the Disputation between the clerk and a friar."[73]

Men also memorized and recited passages of scripture or Lollard writings. Robert Best of Colchester knew the Epistle of James by heart; a mysterious Lollard named Tack who visited Coventry knew the Apocalypse completely and by memory; William Pykas of Colchester, like Wily's daughter, was able to recite the same disputation between a clerk and a friar for the edification of Lollards meeting at his employer's home; John Gest of Birmingham memorized part of an Epistle of Paul.[74] But none of these men were otherwise teachers in the schools of their communities. A London Lollard with an uncertain role in the movement, the goldsmith John Barrett, knew the letter of James "perfectly without book,"[75] and may be an example of a more prominent Lollard who recited texts. Even so, recitation cannot be seen as a direct avenue to authority within the movement. While memorization and recitation undoubtedly gave women and girls as well as some men a significant role in evangelization, this activity in itself did not confer upon them the power and authority of leadership.

Lollards, like Protestants later, wished to express the radical spiritual equality of women and men without challenging the social hierarchy, also divinely ordained, which placed women under the authority of men and restricted their public activity.[77] Other religious sects that ostensibly preached gender equality, such as the Shakers, also maintained in practice communities in which authority was organized along patriarchal lines.[78]

Grove in his house when Grove refused to attend mass, Thacher also apparently rebuked his wife for the same offense of not going to church.[68]

In some rare cases, wives appear to have been more active than husbands. Joan Gest of Coventry and then Birmingham is the most striking example of this. Her employer John Smyth, who had divorced in 1486, first caught Joan her heresy in Coventry before her marriage. She later married John Gest of Birmingham and then taught him her Lollard opinions (as her husband himself affirmed). An important factor in Joan's having taken a leading role may have been their relative ages: John said that Joan converted him in about 1490, when he was about twenty years old and she thirty. Joan and her husband participated in the movement both as a couple and separately. Joan, for instance, went to stay with Agnes Brown in Coventry for three weeks and thus maintained contact with the women in Coventry. Joan and John were assigned penances at the same time on 6 November 1511; they were the only married couple in the Coventry community who were given their penances together.[69] Another case is less clear: testimony indicates that both Isabel and John Morwyn of Amersham were Lollards, but the evidence against Isabel is much more extensive than against John. Isabel Morwyn was still participating in the context of a Lollard family, however; her family of origin (the Burdetts) were prominent Lollards.[70]

More common than wives who were more active than their husbands are cases of wives who appear to have been involved only reluctantly in the movement. Constance Clerc of Coventry, the wife of Thomas Clerc, for instance, was rumored to be of the sect, but Constance herself denied it when brought before the bishop. Her husband Thomas agreed that she was not involved: he said that she had heard him reading various times and knew the books he had were heretical, but that he had not read the books to her and, indeed, that she had wanted him to burn them.[71]

Similarly, Roger Landesdale testified against another Coventry woman, Katherine Hachet, whose husband Robert was a prominent heretic, saying that she had often heard him (Landesdale) reading and that she favored heretical opinions. But Katherine Hachet, like Constance Clerc, denied this when she was brought before the bishop and said that she had tried to discourage her husband from keeping the company of heretical men. Robert Hachet agreed that his wife knew his secrets and opinions, but that she did not favor them. Nor was she mentioned in the deposition of Rose Parmiter, a former servant of the Hachets, who informed the court about the Lollard activities of the Hachet household.[72]

Margaret Landesdale, unlike Constance Clerc and Katherine Hachet, admitted that she was a Lollard along with her husband, but her deposition shows her to have been an unenthusiastic one, in some ways a spectator on the side-lines of her husband's activities rather than a full participant. She deposed that she had seen Silkby come to their house two or three times and that she had heard him communicating with her husband, Roger; she also saw Joan Smyth (then the widow of Richard Landesdale, probably Roger's brother) bring books to Roger, and she saw where he hid them; similarly, she saw Thomasina Bradeley come to communicate with Roger, but she was not privy to their conversation. Although Margaret may not have been much involved in her husband's Lollard activities, she did abjure the heresy and served penance.[54]

If some women participated in Lollardy only reluctantly, under pressure from their husbands, this was never the case with men. Even John Gest, whose wife clearly led him into the sect, was an enthusiastic Lollard.[55] The authority that husbands held over their wives might have led women to become involved in the sect somewhat against their own inclinations, while the power relationship between husbands and wives would rarely if ever have worked in the reverse.

The participation of widows illustrates the extent to which married women's activity was curtailed or restricted. Widows, an important element in some communities but virtually absent from others, were in some ways an anomalous group in a movement that centered on the family. In many cases widows were simply part of this family-centeredness – although they had no husbands, they often had other close relatives in the movement. But some widows, particularly those in Coventry, operated outside the patriarchal and especially the marital structure, leaving them able to play roles less available to other women. Because they were not subject to the authority of a husband, widows were freer to participate in Lollardy than were women married to orthodox husbands.[56] They were also freer to take significant roles and often did – their commitment to the movement may in some cases have been greater since involvement was a personal choice rather than a family one.

The part played by widows in Lollardy varied significantly from community to community. In some groups it was virtually non-existent; all women were either married or young single women. This was the case in the East Anglian community in the 1420s (where one woman, Isabella Chapleyn, may have been a widow)[57] and in the Kentish communities uncovered in 1511 (where the Lollard husband of one woman, Agnes Ive, had recently died).[57] Three women from the diocese of Salisbury were widows,[58] but little is known about these women or their roles in the community. Even in the large Lollard community in the Chiltern Hills there were few widows. Only one woman was certainly a widow[59] and another, Agnes Ashford, was probably also widowed. Ashford had Lollard offspring, Richard Ashford and Thomas Tredway, and taught her son Richard's servant various Lollard prayers.[60] Two widows from London, Joan Boughton and her daughter Lady Jane Yonge, may have been important to their community,[61] but their roles are obscure, as is Lollardy in the metropolis generally.

While Lollard widows in East Anglia, Kent, the Chiltern Hills, and London are relatively rare, widows were more commonly involved in the Lollard communities in Essex and Coventry and contributed significantly to them. A number of widows of Colchester, particularly Margaret Cowbridge, Alice Gardiner, Katherine Swayn, and Agnes Pykas, were involved in the Colchester Lollard community, although the extent of their commitment to Lollardy is not always clear.[62] Widows were also implicated in the rural Essex community centered around Steeple Bumpstead, acting particularly as hostesses to Lollard gatherings. Mother Beckwyth of Braintree, probably the mother of Anthony, Robert, and William Beckwyth, hosted John Tyball, Richard Fox, and John Smyth as they traveled from Steeple Bumpstead to Colchester. Other widows in the Steeple Bumpstead area welcomed Lollard schools in their homes: Joan Bocher (who went on to an active career as an Anabaptist); Mother Charte; and another woman who may have been a widow, Joan Agnes, alias Smyth.[63]

Widows were most prominent in the community in Coventry – the all-female groups there attracted widowed women, who made up much of their membership. Alice Rowley, the leader of the group, had been a widow since 1505.[64] Joan Warde was probably also a widow;[65] and Agnes Brown was the widow of a man who had been "the worst" Lollard, Thomas Brown.[66] Other women were presumably also widows since their husbands were never mentioned and they had children. Agnes Yong was the mother of Juliana Yong, who was always identified only as the daughter of Agnes, making it unlikely that her father was still alive.[67] Agnes Corby was the mother of Elizabeth Gest.[68] Agnes Jonson was the mother of Margaret Grey and was known as "Mother Agnes" or "litle moder Agnes," probably indicating her status as a widow.[69] Agnes de Bakehouse was likely also widowed, although she may have been a spinster; again, no husband is mentioned.[70] The prominence of women in Coventry Lollardy may be due

Guest family's involvement in a "premature" attempt at religious reform in England

Hudson's 1988 research thoroughly examines Lollardy from all available sources (Lollard texts, episcopal records, chronicles, and anti-Wyclif tracts) to provide a more complete picture of the movement than had been previously available. Her work argues that Lollardy was a more coherent and significant movement than previously thought, anticipating many ideas of the 16th and 17th century reformers, and that the ecclesiastical authorities were justified in their serious concern. The Guests' case as a family is an example of the kind of detailed, local evidence that historians like Hudson used to revise the understanding of this "premature" attempt at religious reform in England.

Arguing here, knowing the familia relations taken to Edmund as Elizabeth I's Chief Almoner and Bishop of Salisbury,[28] and Giles Gest's well documented but previously unknown connect to why he was the preferred purchaser of Tewkesbury Abbey property post reformation in which on his death he donated 22 properties in trust of his Giles Gest Charity established by Will in 1558, to the old and poor of Tewkesbury given plausible explanation.

Further underscoring the Gest family's resilience to not abandon their beliefs and their even more significant role in the grass roots history of the reformation advocated for plain English bible, women's equality and condemned the excessive wealth and political power of the clergy, equating the papacy with the "Antichrist" and arguing that priests should focus solely on preaching. Rejecting offerings to images and confession to a priest.

It is likely that heralds and genealogical experts of the time, including Sir William Dugdale, a member by a later marriage, and his colleague Chitty in 1623, overlooked John Gest Jr. and Giles Gest when compiling the family tree in 1634.[29]

Instead, they mistakenly substituted them with relatives, specifically the more famous Edmund and his father Thomas, who were a different branch than Richard and Laurence Gest's true brothers John Gest Jr. and Giles Gest of Tewkesbury.

The latter two were recorded as close blood relatives in 1557 by the research of Dr Daniel Beaver[30] and are now, based on further evidence, considered to be siblings. John Gest Jr. was further known to be the brother of Richard Gest Sr. due to testimonials captured during the heresy trials Coventry in 1511/12. All four brothers are linked as certain siblings once various visitation tables for the family are considered and placed in context of Dugdale's lineal ancestor Henry Geest Dugdale's 1840 correction,[31] together with fresh evidence of the brother relationship between Richard senior and John juniors found in research documents published about the heresy trials.

Meanwhile, John Gest (1480-1561), junior, the elder brother of Richard Gest senior, and their brothers Laurence and Giles Gest, was enthusiastic during the period leading up to the Reformation.

[28] Edmund Guest (1514-1577) Bishop of Salisbury. Cleveland & Teesside Local History Society. Online: ctlhs.co.uk.
[29] Dugdale, H. G., (1840, p.1, p. 13). "The Life and Character of Edmund Gests. Pedigree of the Geste, Ghest or Geast, and Dugdale Family by Sir William Dugdale, 1634.
[30] Ibid, Beaver, D. (2017, p. XV).
[31] Henry Geast Dugdale, in his book published in 1840, noted this. Dugdale, H. G. (1840, p13). The Life and Character of Edmund Geste.

A decade younger than wife Joan Gest (c. 1493-1561), John actively engaged in pre-Reformation ideas that were then deemed heretical:

bias arising from the court's greater interest in men's heretical endeavors.[76] Thus there is much less information about what was perhaps a usual pattern of husbands instructing their wives. The only example in the Essex records that explicitly states that a man led his wife into the heresy is John Tyball's conversion of his wife (who was, despite her husband's instruction, reluctant to believe what he taught her about the sacrament of the eucharist).[77]

On the other hand, there are several examples of wives initiating their husbands into Lollardy, although subsequent instruction usually came from men. Joan Hemstead of Steeple Bumpstead, Essex, had learned the Pater, Ave, and Credo in English from Gilbert Shipwright; she then taught her husband Thomas what she had learned. The remainder of Thomas's instruction in Lollardy came from his parish priest, Richard Fox, and from John Tyball, who perceived that he would be interested in the sect when they observed that he knew English prayers. Thomas Hilles, who had lived in Steeple Bumpstead and in Witham, said that he had first been taught his heresy by a woman, Joan Dyer of Finchingfield, to whom he had been betrothed but who had then died. She taught him the first chapter of the Epistle of James; later he too was instructed by John Tyball. Joan Gest of Birmingham instructed her husband John, ten years her junior, in the Lollard creed. He subsequently had heretical conversations with John Jonson and Roger Landesdale.[78] These cases of wives converting husbands may have been more likely to have been recorded than husbands' conversion of wives precisely because they were rather unusual. Nonetheless, the influence of a fervent Lollard wife should not be discounted.

Some Lollards were married to non-Lollards, a situation with different implications for women than for men. While it may have been uncomfortable and perhaps dangerous for a man to be involved in heresy when his wife was not, a woman theoretically could use only her influence or a threat to disclose his activities to the authorities to attempt to dissuade her husband from heresy. Husbands, on the other hand, effectively could (or at least were expected to) forbid their wives from pursuing a course that would take them outside the orthodox church. Although some women in the Lollard communities were married to men who were apparently not Lollards, their course of action was sometimes more difficult than that followed by men whose wives did not participate in the sect.

Many men were married to non-Lollards. Some wives simply tolerated their husbands' activities, such as the wife of Robert Benet of London, who was present when her husband read from the scriptures to Thomas Walker but did not listen to what he said.[79] Others, like Katherine Hachet and

It is evident that Gest family of the time were forward thinking and the beliefs they were prosecuted for as hearsay such as women as equal to men and the bible able to be read in England taken granted for being hard fought 500 years ago by the Gest's and the Coventry Lollard Community, they belonged.

John Gest (1480-1561) Junior, and wife Joan Gest, were prominent figures within the underground Lollard community in Coventry during the late 15th and early 16th centuries. Their story is often highlighted in studies of the movement's persistence despite severe official persecution, which included the power to have heretics burned at the stake after 1401. Prominent also Elizabeth Gest and mother Agnes Corby and the Smyth family, likely to be the parents and brother of Joan Gest.

The Gests were part of a resilient group in Coventry, part of community hub, and the Gest like other of the Lollards, mercers – drapers (clothier manufacturers and retailers),[32] [33] that managed to sustain Lollard beliefs for decades, largely out of sight of the ecclesiastical authorities until a major crackdown in the early 16th century.

Their activities came under intense scrutiny and they faced persecution around 1511-1512 when Geoffrey Blyth, the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, began a concerted effort to identify and eliminate the local heresy. The Gests, along with many others, were forced to answer for their beliefs during this period.

Lollards in Coventry, like others across England, held beliefs and practices challenged core Catholic doctrines such as transubstantiation, the necessity of confession to a priest, clerical celibacy, and the veneration of images and saints. They emphasised personal piety, simplicity, and access to the Scriptures in English.

Historical documentation survives and the evidence concerning the Gest family of the Coventry Lollards community, including the testimony compiled during Bishop Blyth's investigations, provides valuable insight into the nature of religious dissent just before the wider Protestant Reformation took hold in England.

This documentation includes accounts of trials, imprisonments, and abjurations, to which John and Joan Gest's renouncement involved the only married couple persecuted and receiving penance at the same time, 6th November 1511.[34]

Unlike some of their contemporaries (such as Joan Ward, who was burned as a relapsed heretic in 1511), John and Joan Gest appear to have abjured (formally renounced) their beliefs in order to survive as most of their community had abjured. Sending their silent practice further underground until the reformation by Henry VIII. Standard penance for those who abjured in Coventry often included carrying a bundle of sticks in a public procession to the marketplace-symbolising the fire they had escaped-and wearing a badge on their clothing as a permanent mark of their heresy.

The term "The Premature Reformation," introduced by Anne Hudson in her influential work on Wycliffite texts and Lollard history,[35] sheds light on the early information context within the prominent Lollard community. By tracing the familial connections of Bishop Edmund Gest and his relatives, including John and Joan Gest, and examining the involvement of his likely mother and father, as his maternal grandmother Agnes Corby, we better understand the roots of information practices in places Tewkesbury from 1540.

Processing this information and its analysis for meaning from Guest family perspective, suggests a probable but undocumented participation of the Gest brothers-John Gest Jr., Richard Gest Sr., Laurence Gest, Giles-Gest, as well as John Gest Sr. and his wife Margaret Gest, nee Hawkes, perhaps were all secretly involved in the same Lollard Community, Coventry.

[32] Refer to a s history of Drapers/Clothier involved in the Lollards movement in England as part of Clothier Guilds, since the 14th century in England. Refer: Oman, C. (1906). The Great Revolt of 1381. Charles Oman, M.A., Fellow of All Souls College and Chichele Professor of Modern History, University of Oxford.

[33] Kim, E. (2015). "The Tailors, Drapers, and Mercers of London and the London Commissary and Husting Court Wills, 1374-1485. Doctor of Philosophy Dissertation. Centre for Medieval Studies University of Toronto, Canada.

[34] McSheffrey, S. (1995, p. 89). "Gender and Heresy". Women and Men in Lollard Communities, 1420- 1530. University of Pennsylvania Press. Philadelphia, USA.

[35] Hudson, A. (1988). The Premature Reformation: Wycliffite Texts and Lollard History.

Beliefs and practices of the Coventry "Heretics" (1511–1512)

Firstly, none of the Guest family members mentioned as prominent Lollards in Coventry faced execution; instead, they were required to repent. They were accused of various heresies, which the Roman Church authorities of that time often interpreted as a form of "madness." In light of the practices of the Church of England from post-1536 to the present, it is essential to explore the fundamental beliefs that led to their identification as heretics between 1511-1512.

By the period of 1557-1577, these individuals had transformed into moderates and peace-makers, exemplified by Edmund Guest (1514-1577), who served as Bishop of Rochester and later Salisbury, where he is interred. Additionally, he acted as Chief Almoner to Henry VIII's daughter, Elizabeth I, and was hidden for five years-likely by family members and possibly by Princess Elizabeth and her supporters-to escape execution at the hands of Mary, also a daughter of Henry VIII and Elizabeth's Roman Catholic half-sister.

Compelling in Edmund's biography is his rapid rise after Elizabeth took the throne and known as His Majesty's favourite, in 1559/60 he was a key figure, negotiator sitting at the table to discuss and negotiate as one of Elizabeth I's ecclesial representatives with the Marian commissions, his opposing religious peers, who were there to represent the interests of the Church of Rome.

Edmund conducted himself well and did his part to help Elizabeth I stabilise the Church England and its relationship with the Roman Catholic Church. As such helping Her Majesty keep the peoples of England relative united in this turbulent time in English and church history.

Edmund's immediate ancestors, the "heretics" so to speak, who were Gyles Guest's contemporaries, his close blood relatives, in which it cannot be ruled out included among them Elizabeth Guest and her mother Agnes Corby, are respectively, Edmund's mother and maternal grandmother. Regardless of their familiar relations to Edmund, the Guest males of the heresay trial are certain by the evidence to be Edmund's close blood relatives. Their core religious convictions by today's standards, anything but mad, and included beliefs and practices describe in circumspect as:[36] [37] [38]

- Authority of scripture - They believed the Bible was the sole authority for faith and sought access to it in English rather than Latin.
- Rejection of transubstantiation - They did not believe in the literal, physical change of bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ during Mass.
- Anti-clericalism and sacramental rejection - They criticised the corruption and excessive wealth of the clergy. They did not believe that confession to a priest was necessary for salvation, often arguing that a "good" life was better than a "bad" priest's absolution.
- Rejection of rituals - They opposed the veneration of saints, images, and pilgrimages, viewing them as idolatry.
- Valuing leadership by women in church and community.
- Scripture-based worship - They met in small, secretive groups (known as "conventicles") to read the Scriptures together.
- Rejection of purgatory - They denied the necessity of prayers for the dead.
- The punishments for these beliefs were severe - Several were forced to publicly abjure (recant) their heresy by walking barefoot, carrying a faggot of wood (a symbol of the stake), and wearing a badge, while others of their community, not the Guests, were burned.

[36] Aston, M. 1984. Lollards and Reformers. The Hambledon Press, 1984.
[37] Hudson, A. 1988. The Premature Reformation. Clarendon Press, 1988.
[38] Introducing The Lollards 2026. By the Anabaptist Mennonite Network, Registered Charity 1175973.

Coventry Lollard heretics as premature Anglicans

The Coventry trials should be seen as a precursor to the radical changes, rather than a direct, immediate influence on the political reformation of the 1530s, but they highlight the existing "Protestant" atmosphere in certain areas:

- Anticipation of reformed doctrine - The Lollard beliefs regarding the Bible as the supreme authority and the rejection of purgatory/saints are remarkably similar to the doctrines adopted later, particularly in the 1536 Ten Articles, reasonably considered to be the first, tentative set of doctrinal standards for the Church of England.
- Radicalisation vs. Political Reform - While the 1511-12 Lollards were radical, grassroots dissenters, Henry VIII's reform in 1536 was a top-down, political, and, for a time, economically driven act. Henry was, in 1511, a staunch defender of Catholicism, and it was only later that he sought to sever ties with Rome over the Pope's refusal to annul his marriage.
- "Conquered but not extinguished" - Though Lollardy seemed to be a "spent force" in some areas by the late 15th century, the 1511–12 trials show that it was still active. This indicates a continuity of dissatisfaction that made the later, faster adoption of Protestantism easier in areas like Coventry, as it was not entirely "new" to the populace.
- From treason to orthodoxy - The definition of "heresy" changed dramatically. In 1511, the Lollards were punished for departing from Rome. By 1536, "heresy" was increasingly linked with treason against the King's supremacy.

The beliefs and values secretly practiced by the Lollard Community of Coventry

Lollard preaching emphasised personal responsibility over passive acceptance of clerical authority, voicing doubts that were commonly shared regarding certain beliefs and practices of the Church of Rome that appeared superstitious and lacked biblical support.

The Coventry Lollard community was a notable underground religious movement in England during the15th and early 16th centuries, which challenged Catholic teachings by emphasising vernacular scriptures and featuring prominent female leadership. Composed mainly of artisan's merchants, this faced severe persecution between 1511 and 1512, resulting in the execution of several members as martyrs.

They adhered to John Wycliffe's teachings, questioning the necessity of priests for confession, opposing image worships and pilgrimages, and advocating for a more personal, simplified faith. Organised into smaller, segregated groups to evade detection, key figures included Alice Rowley, a wealthy merchant's wife who was coerced into recantation in 1512, and Joan Warde (Ward), who was executed by burning.

The importance of this community lies in the resilience of pre-Anglican/Protestant dissent in urban areas, along with the active participation of women, which is honoured by a monument dedicated the Coventry Martyrs in 1910. Gyles Guest's elder brother, John Gest (c. 1490-1561) junior, and his wife Joan Gest, is historically noted as the only married couple tried and assigned penances together on the same day, November 6, 1511.[39] Their brother, Richard Guest (Gest), also a cloth manufacturer and clothier, was also prosecuted and repented, ultimately spared from execution in 1511/12. All were sons of John and Margaret Guest, née Hawkes.

[39] "Chapter 2. The Lollards of Coventry". Gender and Heresy: Women and Men in Lollard Communities, 1420-1530, Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2010, pp. 22-46.

John Gest (c.1490-1561) junior further tied to his brother Richard Gest (c. 1482-) senior by another researcher Christopher Dyer in his 2012 study. Dyer's short but informative narrative was found in the Institute of Historical Research, University of London, School of Advanced Study, 2012, pages 44-45 "London and Beyond". [40]

Whereby he tells of Richard's brother John Gest, junior, and his wife Joan Gest, featuring in the Lollard[41] Coventry heresy trials of 1512:

The records of the heresy trials held at Coventry in 1511 contain very useful biographical information about the Lollard community in the regional capital, and its connections with the smaller town of Birmingham. The proceedings reveal an easy mobility among a number of those accused. This was most extreme in the case of John Johnson of Birmingham, a cutler, who had travelled from Yorkshire to London, and moved widely over western England and France.[63] Much more characteristic we suspect was the Gest family. Richard Gest senior was born in rural (but industrial) Northfield and lived in Birmingham, while Joan Gest, wife of John Gest

[62] R. Holt, *The Early History of the Town of Birmingham 1166–1600* (Dugdale Society Occasional Paper, xxx, 1985); *Cambridge Urban History of Britain*, i, ed. D. Palliser (Cambridge, 2000), pp. 636–7; C. Dyer, 'Trade, towns and the church: ecclesiastical consumers and the urban economy of the west midlands, 1290–1540', in *The Church in the Medieval Town*, ed. T. R. Slater and G. Rosser (Aldershot, 1998), p. 64.

[63] Dyer, 'Staffordshire', pp. 18–20.

[64] *Victoria County History of Warwickshire*, vii. 82; British Library, Egerton Rolls, 8556–8, 8590–600, 8667; Birmingham City Archives and Heritage, MS. deeds, vol. 816, ZZ (Weoley court rolls); *The Court Rolls of the Manor of Bromsgrove and King's Norton, 1494–1504*, ed. A. F. C. Baber (Worcestershire Historical Society, 1963); Dyer, 'Staffordshire', p. 31; V. Skipp, *Medieval Yardley* (Chichester, 1970), pp. 79–110.

[65] *Lollards of Coventry 1486–1522*, ed. S. McSheffrey and N. Tanner (Camden Society, 5th ser., xxiii, 2003), pp. 109–13, 223–7.

junior of Birmingham, came from the small Staffordshire market town of Abbots Bromley, and had been the servant of a Coventry tailor.[66] The heresy of which Johnson, the Gests and many others were accused was town based, but country people, who were often drawn into contact with the town by employment, trade or marriage, joined the network of dissent. Lollards owned and read books, so some of them had attended schools. They may have held unorthodox beliefs, but their migratory behaviour and webs of social interaction were probably not so unusual.

[40] Dyer, C. (2012, pp. 44-45). "London and Beyond." Did peasants need markets and towns? Thee experience of late medieval England. In Institute of Historical Research, University of London, School of Advanced Study.

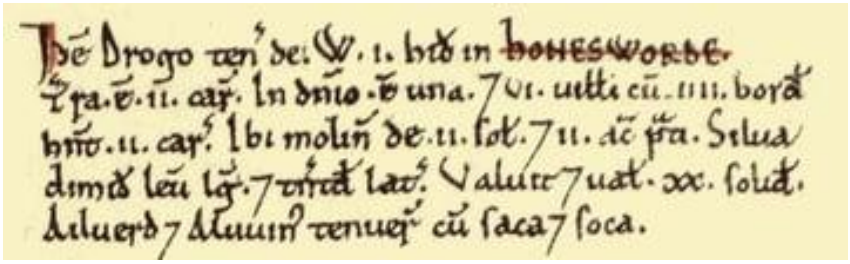
[41] Lollard medieval English religious history, Brittanica.

John Gest (c. 1470-c. 1537) senior's genealogical legacy

John Gest, Sr. came to acquire the Manor and lands of Handsworth in 1492.[42] Kown also by the variant spelling, John Geste or Ghest [Snr.], of Handsworth, County Stafford, he was admitted tenant of copyhold messuage and lands in 1492. His wife Margaret is the daughter and heir of Thomas Hawkes, and great granddaughter of Henry Hawkes of Hopwood, County Worcester. Their seat was to in all piratical sense Row Heath, King's Norton.

It was in right of husband John Guest from 1492 after the court held in favour of Margaret as heir suggesting strongly, she was last of the line, and t passed to John as her husband the Manor of Handsworth, and its lands. The court heard of the messuage, called Handsworth House, and the lands there. Revealed further that Margaret's father Thomas and his grandfather Henry [Hawkes] held by knight's service, these lands from about 1452.

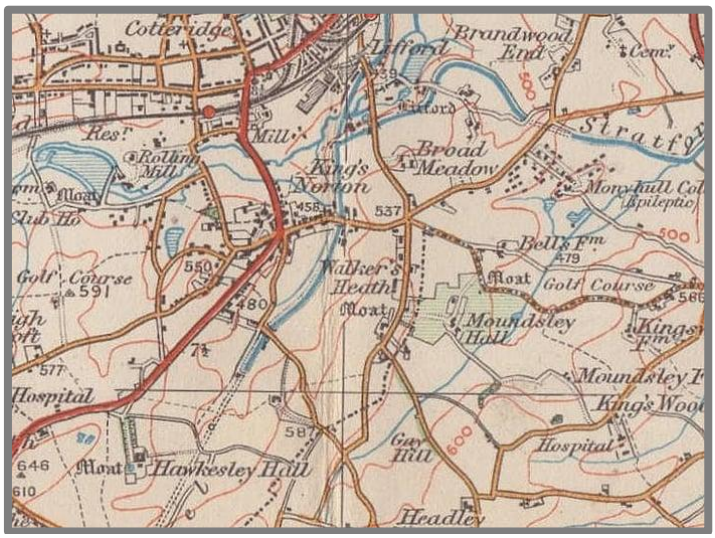
The Manor of Handsworth and land is cited in the Great Domesday Book as noted by William Dargue in his 2009 research into the History of Birmingham.43 Dargue found that old manor house site is located at Heathfield Road and Birchfield Road Handsworth:



The Manor of land Handsworth, Staffordshire, was Warwickshire, now Birmingham, held by John and Margaret encapsulated somewhere within the map of Handsworth below including perhaps a far north, Handsworth Wood near Handsworth also marked below:[44]

[42] Dugdale, H. G., (1840, p.1). "The Life and Character of Edmund Gests. Pedigree of the Geste, Ghest or Geast , and Dugdale Family by Sir William Dugdale, 1634.
[43] Dargue, W. (2009). Handsworth - Formerly in Staffordshire. One of the Domesday Manors of Birmingham and an Ancient Parish. Available online: https://billdargue.jimdofree.com/placenames-gazetteer-a-to-y/places-h/handsworth/.
[44] Map of Handsworth above, sourced from Andrew Rowbottom's website of Old Ordnance Survey Maps Popular Edition, Birmingham 1921 via William Dargue's 2009 research.

Further south in Hawkesley, (West Heath), there was also another about 1.5 miles away in long bridge. The latter extinct. Th present author suspects one was held by Margaret's father Thomas Hawkes and the other also held prior to 1492, and after 1452 by Thomas' s grandfather another Knight, Henry Hawkes, or another lineal family member of that line. Below is the map of Hawksley (Hill) nearby to Row Heath also in the parish of Northfield, King's Norton, reproduced by William Darque from Andrew Rowbottom's website of Old Ordnance Survey Maps' Popular Edition, Birmingham 1921: [45]



According to Dargue (2009) in Old English *heafoc loh* probably means 'hawk's homestead.' Hawk referring either to the bird, or to Hawk used as a male personal name, or a later surname. The final element of the name appears to derive not from *ley*, a dwelling in a woodland clearing, but from the Anglo-Saxon *low*, which usually refers to an artificial tumulus, perhaps a burial mound.

Hawkes House, also known as Great Hawkesley Farm, is located in Turves Green/Long bridge in Rednal Yeald, part of the historic manor of Northfield. This site, protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument, is sometimes mistakenly referred to as Hawkes Hall or Moat House.

Historically, the now-extinct Hawkesley in Long bridge, Northfield, marked the location perhaps of neighbouring boundaries between the Guest family of Row Heath also in the Parish of Northfield in King's Norton.

The connection between these two families was solidified through the marriage of John (circa 1460) of King's Norton and Margaret Hawkes (circa 1462), which led to the acquisition of Handsworth Manor and lands in 1492, granted by the courts to John by his wife Margaret, the heiress. This indicates that the Hawkes family also had ties to Handsworth with their land considered a single parcel by that time and awarded to John and Margaret in 1492.

Consequently, the Gest brothers, Thomas and John, are now known to be the sons of William Gest, were neighbours as it seems in King's Norton from 1492. That perhaps so, John and Margaret Gest's family chose to reside at Handsworth Manor. Their preference may have stemmed from a close familial connection to mercantile activities, as well as their early Protestant affiliations, involving their sons John junior and Richard senior in Birmingham around 1511/12, and later their youngest son Giles Gest in nearby Tewkesbury from 1540.

[45] Hawkesley Hill at the base of the map above likely to have an ancestral tie to John Gest of Handsworth 'father-in-law, Margeret Gest, nee Hawkes family, whereby it is established the Hawkes Thomas and Henry, knights; held real estate property in King's Norton.

John Gest (c.1470-c.1537) as Edmund's grand uncle

John is the younger brother of heir, Thomas Gest (c. 1468-), the grandfather of Bishop Edmund Gest (1514-1577). John and Thomas, the sons of William Gest (c. 1429-c. 1495) the son of another Thomas Gest c. (1398-1468), of Berley, King's Norton, Worcestershire.

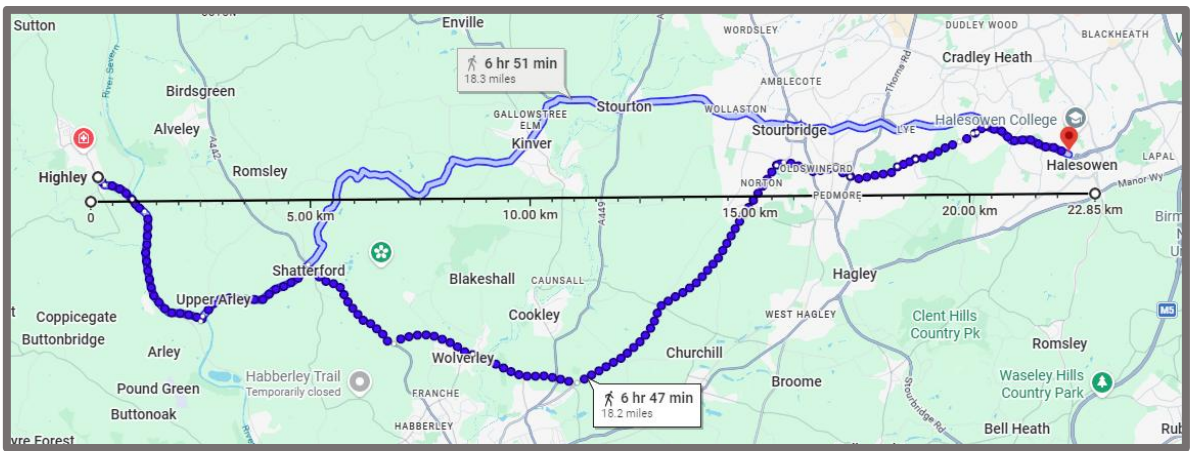
A recovered deeds title record clearly identifies the father and grandfather of siblings Thomas Gest (born around 1468) and John Gest (around 1470), confirming that these immediate ancestors are linked to the same manor and lands. The father of these brothers is William Gest (circa 1429-1495) , and their grandfather is Thomas Gest (circa 1406-1495), who is William's father.

This book delves deeper into their stories, leading to the identification of Thomas's father, John Gestlyng (1358-abt. 1422/3) also known as John Gest (c. 1358-abt. 1422/3), who was born in Yorkshire and later became a juror in Staffordshire by 1409. This is further supported by the succession of land titles for property owned by Thomas, the elder brother, alongside genealogical evidence from the College of Arms Heralds, particularly the 1569 Visitation of Worcestershire by Robert Cooke. These records mesh and solidify the patrilineal relationship between the brothers and their earlier landholder, now recognised as William.

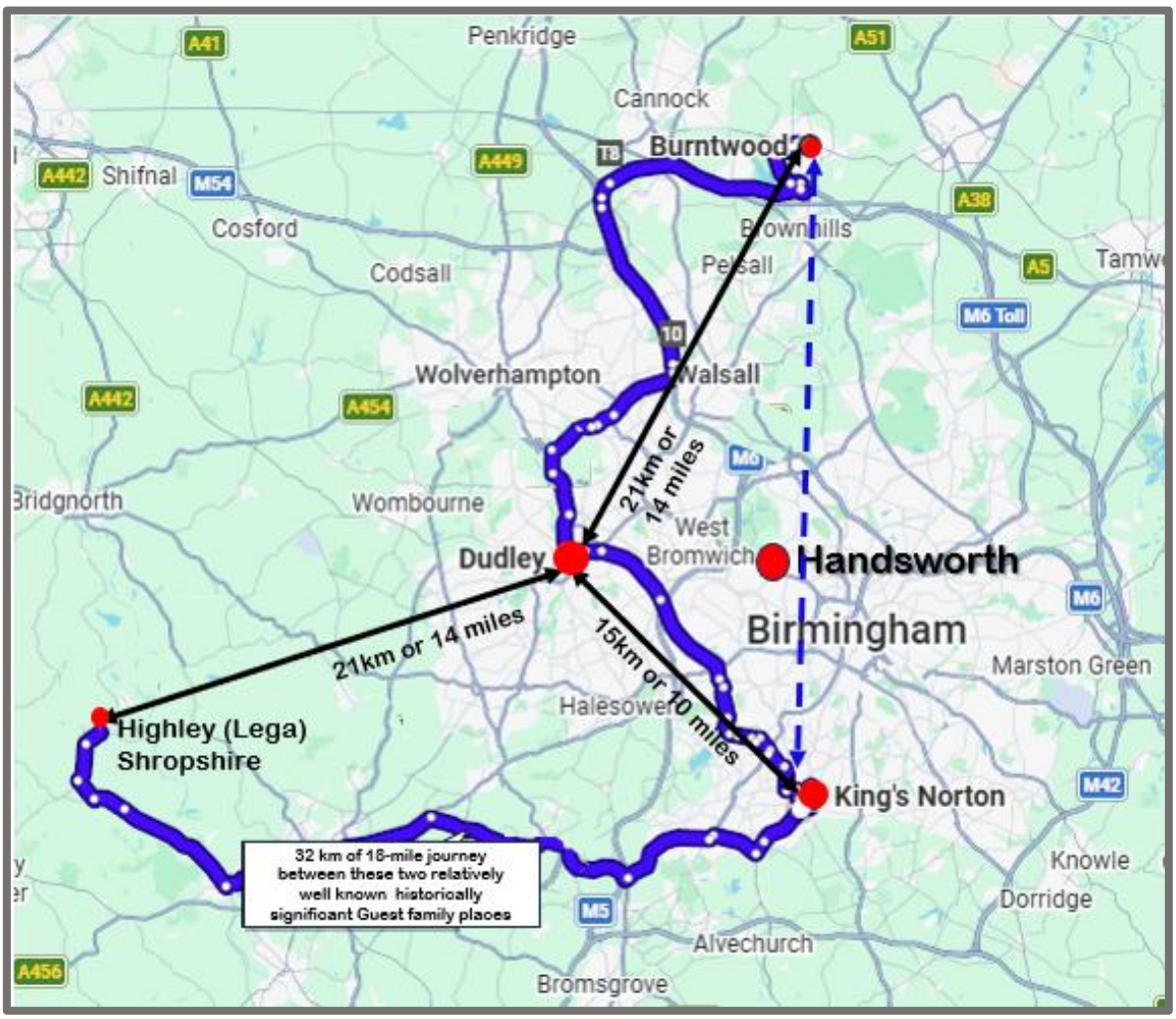
The Dudley-Berkeley family connection to the Guests of midland England

The lands owned by the Gest family in midlands during the 16th century can be traced back, possibly to the late 14th century. Initially, they held Row Heath in the Parish of Northfield, King's Norton, Worcestershire, followed by Handsworth in Staffordshire (formerly Warwickshire), which was linked to their intermarriage with the Hawkes family of King's Norton, also back to at least the 14th century.

In the 16th century, Laurence Gest (c. 1487-c. 1543) acquired land Halesowen in Staffordshire, near King's Norton. There is a strong possibility that an earlier ancestor, John Gest (c. 1378-c.1438), born in Yorkshire, but the same line ascending earlier for Highley (Lega) Shropshire which is only 21 kilometres of 15 miles apart from Halesowen, Staffordshire. The suggestion being John Guest (c. 1378-c1438) inherited land giving him cause to return the regions after his father, likely grandfather had a cause to move to Yorkshire.



Nearby to Highley, Shropshire is Halesowen, and closely you can find King's Norton in Worcestershire. Passing through another Gest townland of the period Handsworth is Burntwood, also in Staffordshire, and less than 20 kilometres or 12 miles north-east of Dudley:



Historical evidence presented in Book I suggests that the townland "Burntwood" may have been named by the Gest family, indicating their ownership. This connection stems from the lineal descendants of Giles Gest (c. 1498-1557) from Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, who their townland in Cloughjordan, Tipperary, "Burntwood." Records show that Burntwood, consisting of Burntwood Big and Burntwood Little, is located within the Civil Parish of Modreeny, County Tipperary. [46] [47] [48]

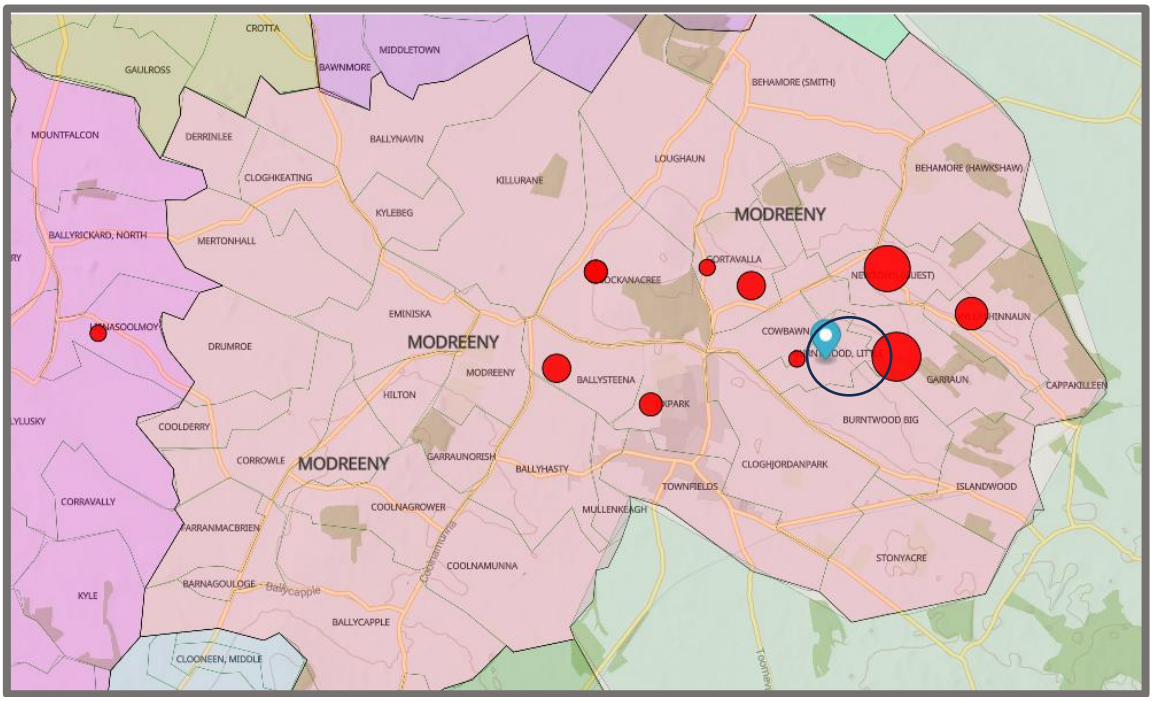
The notable John Guest (c. 1786-1864), a qualified juror in Victorian Ireland and bearer of the Guest arms grant and right to be published as "Esquire," is linked to area and plays a significant role in local land records and history. He is also attributed as the provenance of why the townland "town (Guest)" in Cloughjordan was so named, as noted in the Griffith Valuation.

[46] Ibid Guest, J. L. R. (20024, pp. 345-363).

[47] C.f., Armitage-Guest Family in Griffith's Valuation Emphasis, Armitage records of analogous landholding in Newtown Gest and Burntwood, Parish of Modreeny, Tipperary, Ireland.

[48] C.f., An Baile Nua (Guest) [Newtown Guest] and An Choill Dóite Bheag (Burntwood Little, John Guest). In Logainm.ie The Placenames Database of Ireland created by Fiontar & Scoil na Gaeilge in collaboration with The Placenames Branch (Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht).

The map below marking the townlands held by John Guest (1786-1864), Esq. and subsequent offspring, as well as that of his patrilineal siblings and cousins and their offspring, features Burntwood (Big and Little) (circled) provided with many thanks by John Grentham (2006): [49]



Understanding this information within a historical context for the family reveals the fascinating possibility that the land known as Burntwood in Tipperary was named in honor of the Irish Guest's English heritage, specifically tied to Staffordshire in midland England and its connection to Burntwood there. These lands are further known to have been held by the Guest family since 1738 as a single parcel granted by Lord Dunnally, which was subdivided over generations into smaller parcels for the welfare of future generations and their family units, with names that were recorded in the Griffith Valuations of the 1850s.

The "Burntwood" property name, a connection to the Guest's of Tipperary, Ireland

Additionally, it is plausible that the son of John the juror dropped the "lyng/ling" suffix, which means "family" in Old English. With caution and based genealogical modelling, it would be inaccurate to assume that John Gestlyng (1358-abt. 1422/3), the Staffordshire juror, may have held a property interest in Burntwood, and closer still is King Norton, only kilometres or 10 miles from Dudley.

A property interest held by John is detected by the name given to "Burntwood, Staffordshire," [50] [51] established in Cloughjordan, Parish of Modreeny, Tipperary, Ireland, in Book I. The holder was also named John Guest (c. 1786-1864) and a direct descendent of Giles Gest (c. 1490-1557). He, like the Gest family of midland England and Giles Gest in particular, was also a cloth merchant, draper, cloth dealer, middling farmer, property owner, and town commissioner.

[49] Grenthan, J. (2026). Guest Townland Record Entries in Modreeny. "Guest in Burntwood Little in Modreeny civil parish, Tipperary, Ireland."

[50] The hamlet of Edial developed along the stretch of the Lichfield Road each of Burntwood known by 1409 as Edial Lane. Burntwood History. Indi, Burntwood Town Council, online.

[51] The next important change in the history of the area came with the Reformation, when much of the surrounding land changed hands. The land was taken from the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield and sold to Sir William Paget in 1546. The Pagets remained the major landowners until this Century. Ibid, Burntwood Town Council, online.

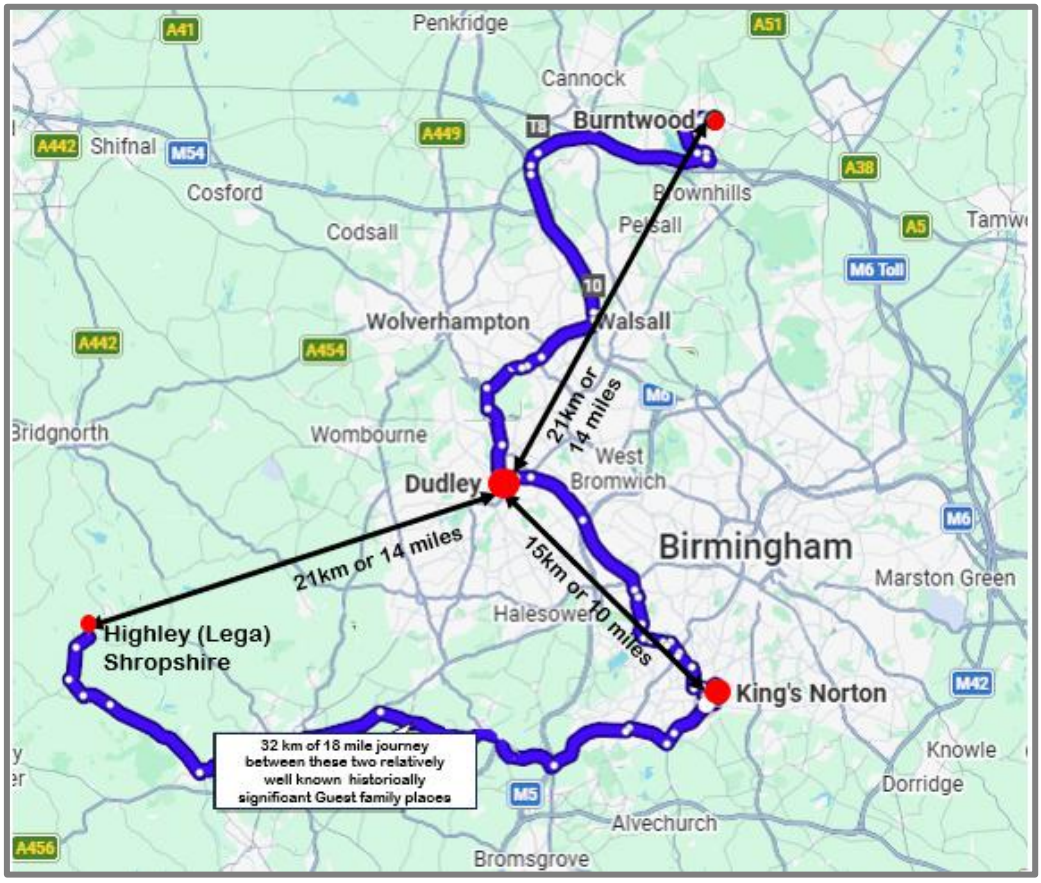
This 18th century John Guest of Tipperary, Ireland, had to provide proof of his ancestry to be accepted by the British Parliament as a juror for the courts in Victorian Ireland in the mid-1800s arguing he may well have known and held documentation of a lineal ancestor holding "Burntwood" Staffordshire to which they came from centuries earlier.

While these two properties named "Burntwood" may be coincidental, that in itself seems more remote than a direct link given surrounding information pointing to why John Guest in the 18th century named his Burntwood.

Thus, at a minimum, the relevant information spanning later centuries can help advance the immediate 14th and 15th-century ascending trace the Midlands of England in a very concentrated area around Dudley, Staffordshire, by considering a mix of useful facts available for the Guest family which may be used to further cross-check new records to ascertain their value in revealing a family member not known personally along the patriline standing between and including Mr. Gest and Saeric.

This mix of information includes lifespan estimates for patrilineal members immediately a generation prior to Thomas Gest c. (1398-1468), of Berley, King's Norton, Worcestershire including John Gestlyng (c. 1358- c. 1422/3), the juror of Staffordshire, which is therefore useful as a reference point to best determine the generational placement of any seriously considered prospect., it may provide the necessary breakthrough to advance a more complete patriline, giving personal names to absent family members of the Guest family tree beyond William Gest (c. 1429 -c. 1495) who inherited his father Thomas's Guest's Manor of Row Heath King's Norton, Worcestershire property.

Whereby a location map of Dudley and Burntwood Staffordshire, King's Norton, Worcestershire and Highley (Lega), Shropshire becomes a useful visual representation of place of significance for this Guest/Gestlyng family of this time is offer below:



The Dudley & Berkely families land, broadly spread vs. overlapping

Aside from Burntwood, between the late 14th early 15th centuries, the townlands associated with the Gest family near Dudley had ties to the Dudley family, also known as Sutton, and their combined Sutton (Dudley)-Berkeley lineage.

The Berkeley family, on the other hand, owned lands from the 15th century that extended into Norfolk in the East Midlands, where several male members of the Gest family can be found. William de Berkeley, the 1st Marquess of Berkeley (1426-1492), was referred to as "The Waste-All" by the family biographer and steward John Smyth of Nibley due to his tendency to alienate many estates. Nonetheless, the family managed to retain significant land holdings during this time.[52]

The Manor and its estate in King's Norton, Worcestershire, as documented in a Deed, were transferred to William Gest (c. 1429-c. 1495) by his father, Thomas Gest (c. 1398-1468), in 1468. The property, referred to as "Barkeley," was owned by Thomas prior to this transfer. The only known predecessor is John Gest (c. 1358-c. 1422/3), a juror of Staffordshire, who may have held it around the same time he held Burntwood, though this remains speculative.

The counties of Worcestershire, including the town of Dudley, along with Staffordshire and the southwestern borderlands of Shropshire, resemble a jigsaw puzzle rather than a symmetrical layout. The Gest family held lands in this region from 1066 until the 16th century. Although these properties were geographically and temporally separate, they were closely situated-no more than 30 kilometres or 20 miles apart, with Halesowen and King Norton in proximity to Handsworth and Burntwood.

For a long time, this compact territory around Dudley was a politically and militarily contested area, influenced by rival families like the Talbots, Suttons and the Berkeleys. By the time the Gest family acquired King's Norton, these families had united through marriage, which likely allowed the Gests to gain favour and maintain these lands, reassuring both the Sutton and Berkeley families that their interests would be safeguarded.

John Gest (c. 1490-1561), the juror of Staffordshire, along with his son Thomas and grandson William, who passed the Manor and lands in Row Heath, Northfield, King's Norton on to his son, Thomas Gest (c. 1468-) had to be notably astute, diplomatic, and politically skilled. Their lives coincided with a tumultuous time marked by powerful families like Talbot's Sutton and Berkeley, whose conflicts were amplified by the violent Berkeley-Talbot feud concerning the inheritance of Berkeley estates and titles in the 15th century.[53]

This feud culminated in a 15th century in England's last "private battle" at Nibley Green, Gloucestershire on the 20th March 1470, between Lord Berkeley and the Countess of Shrewsbury (a Beaufort), who had connections to the broader regional power struggles.[54] [55]

The history indicates that the Gest family successfully navigated the political and religious upheavals of their time, remaining firmly rooted in their community, where descendants continue to live as ordinary citizens today.

[52] Smyth, John (1618). The Lives of the Berkeleys, Lords of the Honour, Castle and Manor of Berkeley, in the County of Gloucester, from 1066 to 1618. See also: Cokayne, The Complete Peerage, vol. 2, p. 133).
[53] The Battle of Nibley Green – England's Last Private Battle. History and Things. Online:
[54] Berkely, D. (2017). The Battle of Nibley Green. Chapter 5. Online: https://www.rotwang.co.uk/hob_chapter_05.html.
[55] Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society (2007, p. 13). Transactions – Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society. Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society.

Before providing evidence of land ownership and succession from this earlier period, it is suggested that the Gest family must have been viewed favourably by powerful families, enabling them to retain the lands they were granted and maintain peace in this compact region of the West Midlands during the tumultuous 15th and 16th centuries. The truth lies within the complex familial ties of Dudley (Sutton) – Berkeley, their lands and land grants, as well as the Gest family's geographical position among their distinct landholdings and overlaps.

For the sake of brevity, the intertwined story of the Guest family from Midlands England and the Dudley-Berkely connection to the Guest family's land holdings is summarised above, [56] An executive summary regarding the Dudley [Sutton]-Berkeley family during the 15th to 17th centuries is provided below, based on primary sources. [57] [58] [59]

The holders of Dudley and Berkeley Castles generally maintained distinct regional power bases, though both families held extensive estates.

FEATURE	DUDLEY CASTLE (SUTTON FAMILY)	BERKELEY CASTLE (BERKELEY FAMILY)
PRIMARY REGION	West Midlands (Staffordshire and Worcestershire)	Gloucestershire (Severn Valley)
LAND EXTENT	The "Honour of Dudley" included extensive lands across middle England.	The Berkeley estate consisted of approximately 6,000 acres, including 18 tenant farms and the Berkeley hundred.
SPECIFIC HOLDINGS	Historically situated in Sedgley (Staffordshire) but overlooking Dudley town (Worcestershire).	Centred in Gloucestershire, with additional historical property in Glamorganshire, Monmouthshire, and small holdings in Worcestershire (e.g., Severn Stoke).

The landholding strategy by the Dudley [Sutton] and Berkeley families

The Suttons were primarily "Marcher barons" or West Midlands lords, while the Berkeleys were one of the most powerful families in the southwest, specifically Gloucestershire. Their land ownerships included minor overlaps, While the Berkeleys were almost entirely focused on Gloucestershire, they did possess some minor outlying properties in other counties, including Severn Stoke in Worcestershire.

Both families grew their influence through marriage rather than territorial competition. The Suttons acquired Dudley Castle through marriage to the de Somery heiress, Margery, in the early 14th century. Similarly, the Berkeleys maintained their seat for over 900 years, often "marrying well" to sustain their status.

[56] Salt, W. (1888, p. 110). Collections for a History of Staffordshire. Staffordshire Record Society.
[57] See also Dugdale, under " Berkeley," who cites the Shropshire Pipe Roll of 8 R. I.
[58] Salt, W. (1888, p. 110). Collections for a History of Staffordshire. Staffordshire Record Society.
[59] James Herbert Cooke, FSA. (1879, p. 305-324). The Great Berkely Law-Suit of the 15th and 16th Century.

Uncovered, a relevant and obscure Dudley-Guest marriage union

The most direct link between the two seats, Dudley and Berkely occurred in the early 15th century through the marriage of John Sutton VI (1400–1487) and Elizabeth Berkeley (d. 1478). [60]

John Sutton, the 1st Baron Dudley, married Elizabeth Berkeley, daughter of Sir John Berkeley of Beverston, Gloucestershire, sometime after March 1420. Elizabeth was of the Beverston branch of the Berkeley family and the widow of Edward Charleton, 5th Baron Cherleton. She died in 1478 and was buried at St. James's Priory in Dudley. Their descendants, including their grandson Edmund Dudley and great-grandson John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, became prominent figures in Tudor history.

This was not the first union between these two families, earlier in the 1195, taken to be the 7th year of Richard I's reign, widow Hawise the sister and heir to Gervase Paganell, Baron of Dudley, was re-married to Roger de Berkeley.[61]

In respect to the Guest and Dudley families, a marriage union is found for the late 16th century. Between George Guest, believed to be a direct descendent of heir of the Manor and lands of King's Norton held by the Guest family, William Gest (c. 1489-1559) and Alice one of the natural daughters of Edward Lord Dudley (1567-1643). [62]

The marriage is recorded by Salt (1888, p. 110), and time stamped 1593, and recognised by Salt as the 35th year of Elizabeth I's reign.[63] The connection between the Guest and Dudley families seems to have lasted at least until the early 16th century. Literature includes a vague mention of George Guest as a relative, friend, and business partner of Alice's brother, Robert Dudley, the illegitimate son of Edward, Lord Dudley.

Along with another associate, John Bagley, they obtained a lease for a commercial property from Lord Dudley for twenty-one years. This indicates that the Guest and Dudley families were likely acquainted from the mid-15th century, prima facie no later than 1468, and probably earlier, maintaining their relationship well into the 16th century, potentially spanning over 150 years, pending further evidence.

[60] D. Pane-Joyce (2014). "John Sutton – Old Folks." This is not a traditional academic research paper but a personal genealogy database compiled by a Pane-Joyce at Clark University. A Collaborative Project with Massachusetts Genealogical Society.
[61] Ibid, Salt, W. (1888, pp. 12-13).
[62] Ibid, Salt, W. (1888, p. 110, fn. 2).
[63] Salt, W. (1888, p. 110).

heiress, to Humble Ward, the only son of William Ward, a wealthy goldsmith in London, jeweller to the late Queen."[1]

The "fair inheritance" to which Dugdale refers, appears to have been heavily "dipped" when he succeeded; and at least as early as 1593 the estates were in the hands of receivers under a commission of sequestration. In 14 James I., 1616, certain depositions were taken at Walsall on 12th September in an Exchequer suit Cornwallis *v.* Thomas Wilmer, as to the manors and lands of Dudley, Netherton, Rowley, Harborne, Smethwick, etc., to ascertain (*inter alia*) what amount of rent had been received by Thomas Wilmer (the husband of my lord's half sister Anne) since the 35th Elizabeth by virtue of a commission of sequestration, and whether there had been any agreement between the said Thomas Wilmer and Samuel Wilmer his brother, or either of them, and Edward Lord Dudley concerning the said order of sequestration.

Robert Stanford of Birmingham, gent., aged 50 or thereabouts, deposes that he holds by assignment from Richard Hamnet, deceased, and others, part of the park called the "Conygree Park" of Dudley for lives yet in being, and doth pay Mr. Thomas "Willmore" £17 rent for the same. Also holds the "tyme worke" in the Castle hill and Conygree on lease for three lives from the now Lord Dudley, at the yearly rent of "twoe shillings," and paid a fine of £200 for the said lease.

Symon Ryder of West Bromwich, yeoman, aged 58 or thereabouts, deposes that he witnessed a lease made between Lord Dudley on the one part, and Robert Dudley, gent., George Guest, and John Bagley on the other part. By the said lease Lord Dudley demised to the said Robert Dudley, George Guest,[2] and John Bagley the "Oulde Park and the Counigree" for twenty-one years, in consideration of the sum of £100 yearly.

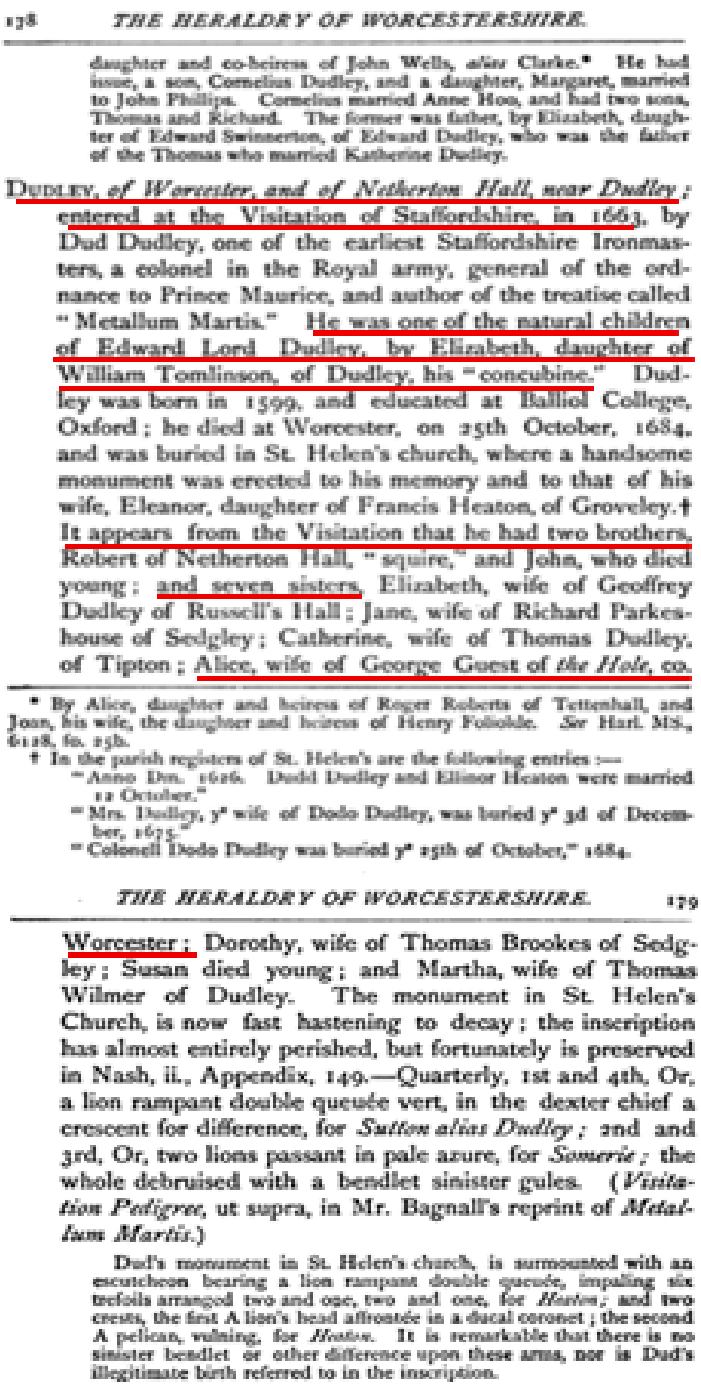
Edward Baker, of Harborne, yeoman, deposes (*inter alia*) that the said Samuel Wilmer hath not received any rent for one and a half years, but that one William Bradley, servant to the defendant, hath received the said rents.

William Bradley, of Dudley, yeoman, aged 35 or thereabouts, corroborates the previous witness, deposing that Samuel Wilmer had not received the rents of the lands in sequestration for "over a year," but that they had been paid to this deponent.

[1] "Baronage," Vol. II., p. 217.

[2] Robert Dudley was one of the natural sons of Edward Lord Dudley, and George Guest was the husband of Alice, one of his natural daughters.

Consulting the 1873 research by H. Sydney Grazebrook, Esq, it is found he captured two useful pieces of information about the Guest family, of relevance here. The first as part of his roll of the arms borne by several noble and gentile families, he included George Guest and wife Alice within the family of Edward Lord Dudley (1567-1643) he describes as the Dudley of Worcester (family): [64]



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daughter and co-heiress of John Wells, *alias* Clarke.* He had issue, a son, Cornelius Dudley, and a daughter, Margaret, married to John Phillips. Cornelius married Anne Hoo, and had two sons, Thomas and Richard. The former was father, by Elizabeth, daughter of Edward Swinnerton, of Edward Dudley, who was the father of the Thomas who married Katherine Dudley.

DUDLEY, *of Worcester, and of Netherton Hall, near Dudley*; entered at the Visitation of Staffordshire, in 1663, by Dud Dudley, one of the earliest Staffordshire Ironmasters, a colonel in the Royal army, general of the ordnance to Prince Maurice, and author of the treatise called "Metallum Martis." He was one of the natural children of Edward Lord Dudley, by Elizabeth, daughter of William Tomlinson, of Dudley, his "concubine." Dudley was born in 1599, and educated at Balliol College, Oxford; he died at Worcester, on 25th October, 1684, and was buried in St. Helen's church, where a handsome monument was erected to his memory and to that of his wife, Eleanor, daughter of Francis Heaton, of Groveley.† It appears from the Visitation that he had two brothers, Robert of Netherton Hall, "squire," and John, who died young; and seven sisters, Elizabeth, wife of Geoffrey Dudley of Russell's Hall; Jane, wife of Richard Parkeshouse of Sedgley; Catherine, wife of Thomas Dudley, of Tipton; Alice, wife of George Guest of *the Hole*, co.

* By Alice, daughter and heiress of Roger Roberts of Tettenhall, and Joan, his wife, the daughter and heiress of Henry Folliobe. *Ser* Harl. MS., 6128, fo. 25b.

† In the parish registers of St. Helen's are the following entries:—
"Anno Dn. 1626. Dudd Dudley and Elinor Heaton were married 12 October."
"Mrs. Dudley, y^e^ wife of Dodo Dudley, was buried y^e^ 3d of December, 1675."
"Colonell Dodo Dudley was buried y^e^ 25th of October," 1684.

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Worcester; Dorothy, wife of Thomas Brookes of Sedgley; Susan died young; and Martha, wife of Thomas Wilmer of Dudley. The monument in St. Helen's Church, is now fast hastening to decay; the inscription has almost entirely perished, but fortunately is preserved in Nash, ii., Appendix, 149.—Quarterly, 1st and 4th, Or, a lion rampant double queuée vert, in the dexter chief a crescent for difference, for *Sutton alias Dudley*; 2nd and 3rd, Or, two lions passant in pale azure, for *Somerie*; the whole debruised with a bendlet sinister gules. (*Visitation Pedigree*, ut supra, in Mr. Bagnall's reprint of *Metallum Martis*.)

Dud's monument in St. Helen's church, is surmounted with an escutcheon bearing a lion rampant double queuée, impaling six trefoils arranged two and one, two and one, for *Heaton*; and two crests, the first A lion's head affrontée in a ducal coronet; the second A pelican, vulning, for *Heaton*. It is remarkable that there is no sinister bendlet or other difference upon these arms, nor is Dud's illegitimate birth referred to in the inscription.

Grazebrook's brief mention of George and Alice Guest, formerly Dudley, living at Hole, Co. Worcester, is short for Halesowen, Worcestershire, suggesting that George is likely the direct ancestor of Laurence Gest (c. 1487-c. 1547), who his branch in Halesowen after moving from nearby King's Norton.

[64] Grazebrook, H. S. Esq. (1873, pp. 178-179). "The Heraldry of Worcestershire." Being a roll of the arms borne by the several noble, knightly, and gentle families, which have had property or residence in that county, from the earliest period to the present time; with genealogical notes.

Guest's 1634 Heraldry listing for Handsworth. Staffordshire

This brings us to Grazebrook's second research contribution for the family, which details the family's entry-level nobility and the arms grant to John Gest (c.1470 - c. 1537) (Senior). New evidence confirms that John and Margaret Hawkes, were the parents of four sons: John (Jr.), Richard (Sr.), Laurence (who is George's ancestor), and Giles Guest. Importantly, this also validates Dugdale's 1840 correction of his lineal ancestor Sir Dugdale's 1634 rare mistake, necessitating the removal of Thomas Guest and Edmund Guest from the 1634 genealogical table of the of Handsworth, as they are direct descendants of John's brother Thomas Guest (c. 1468 - c. 1521), who was the heir to father William Guest's estate in Row Heath, parish of Northfield, King's Norton, Worcestershire.

Grazebrook's information can be traced back to Sir William Dugdale in 1634, later amended by Dugdale's descendant in 1840, who excluded Thomas and Edmund. The rest of Grazebrook's account regarding the Guest family is entirely accurate:[65]

GHEST, GEAST, or GUEST, *of Row Heath.* This family, whose pedigree was recorded at the Visitation of 1634, is descended from John Gheste of Handsworth, co. Stafford, living temp. Henry VII.; he had three sons—Richard of Handsworth, who died in 1541; Lawrence of Row Heath, in Kingsnorton; and Thomas, father of Edmund Gheste, Bishop of Rochester, and afterwards of Salisbury. Richard Geast, a lineal descendant of the above-named Richard of Handsworth, married, in 1722, Jane, daughter and co-heiress of William Dugdale of Blyth Hall, co. Warwick, son of Sir John Dugdale, and grandson of Sir William Dugdale, the celebrated antiquary and genealogist. Their son Richard Geast assumed in 1799 the surname and arms of Dugdale, and was grandfather of

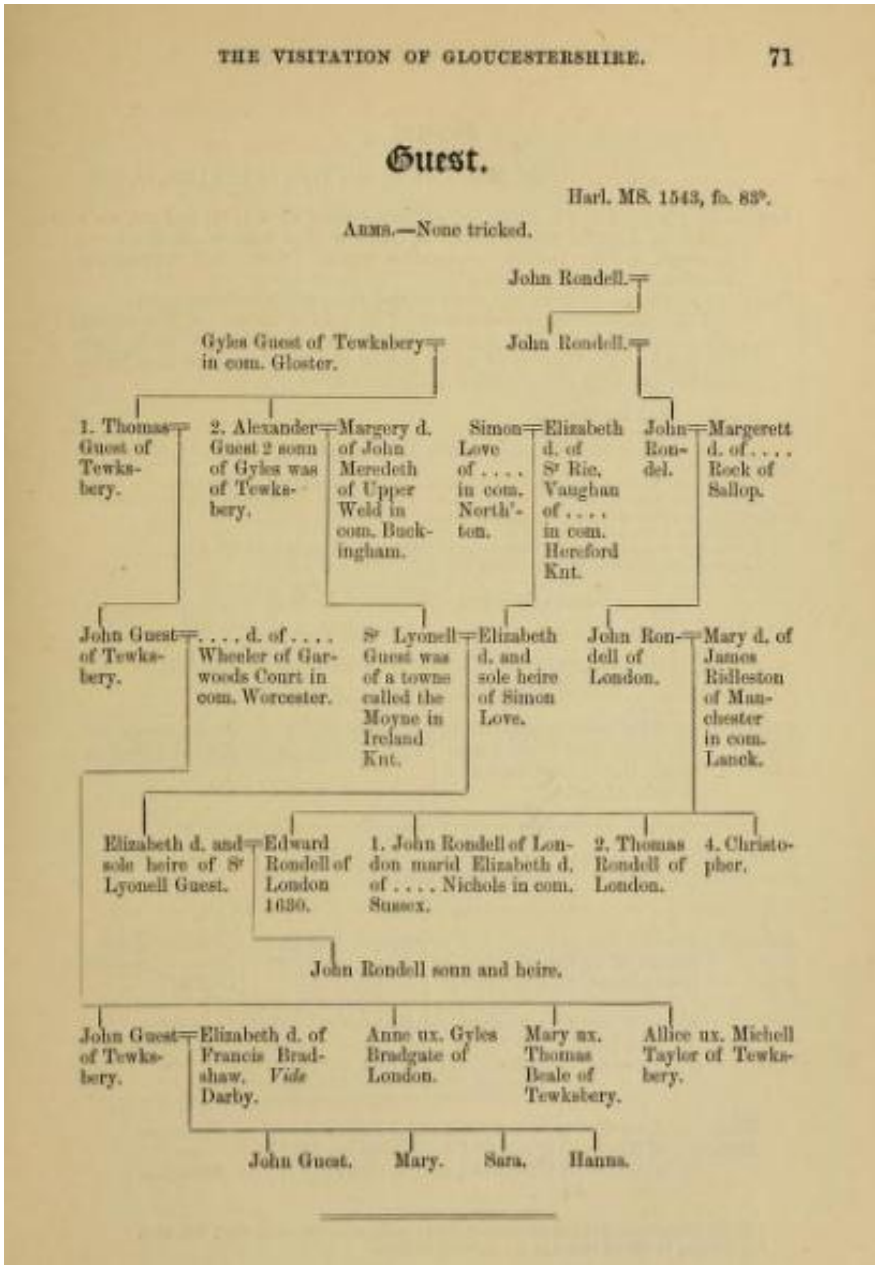
29

William Stratford Dugdale of Merevale, co. Warwick.—Azure, a chevron or between three swan's heads erased proper. Crest: A swan's head erased proper, between two ostrich feathers or. (*C. 30, Coll. Arm.*, fo. 69b.; and Hamper's *Life of Dugdale.*)

[65] Grazebrook, H. S. Esq. (1873, pp. 225-226).

Guest 1566 genealogical table for Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire

Stepped out below is the genealogical legacy left by Gyles Guest (c. 1498-1557) and his wife Alice, nee Styles (c. 1505-1581), daughter of Richard Styles, likely bailiff of Cheltenham. Alice is not listed in the table below, nor their other children, Philip Guest and daughter Anne Guest.[66] They are however but captured by Dr Daniel Beaver in his published work of Gyles Guest (Giles Geast) Charity Accounts Book.[67] The table was constructed, verified and published in 1623 by the College of Arms after heraldic inspection conducted by Henry Chitty (Chester Herald) and John Phillipot (Somerset Herald) acting as deputies for William Camden (1551-1623), who was then the Clarenceux King of Arms:[68] [69]



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Guest.

Harl. MS. 1543, fo. 83b.

Arms.—None tricked.

John Rondell.=

Gyles Guest of Tewksbery in com. Gloster. = | John Rondell.=

1. Thomas Guest of Tewksbery. = | 2. Alexander Guest 2 sonn of Gyles was of Tewksbery. = | Margery d. of John Meredeth of Upper Weld in com. Buckingham. | Simon Love of .... in com. North'ton. = | Elizabeth d. of Sr Rie. Vaughan of .... in com. Hereford Knt. | John Rondel. = | Margerett d. of .... Rock of Sallop.

John Guest of Tewksbery. = | .... d. of .... Wheeler of Garwoods Court in com. Worcester. | Sr Lyonell Guest was of a towne called the Moyne in Ireland Knt. = | Elizabeth d. and sole heire of Simon Love. | John Rondell of London. = | Mary d. of James Ridleston of Manchester in com. Lanck.

Elizabeth d. and sole heire of Sr Lyonell Guest. = | Edward Rondell of London 1630. | 1. John Rondell of London marid Elizabeth d. of .... Nichols in com. Sussex. | 2. Thomas Rondell of London. | 4. Christopher.

John Rondell sonn and heire.

John Guest of Tewksbery. = | Elizabeth d. of Francis Bradshaw. *Vide* Darby. | Anne ux. Gyles Bradgate of London. | Mary ux. Thomas Beale of Tewksbery. | Allice ux. Michell Taylor of Tewksbery.

John Guest. | Mary. | Sara. | Hanna.

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[66] Philip and Anne's potential genealogical legacies not chartered.

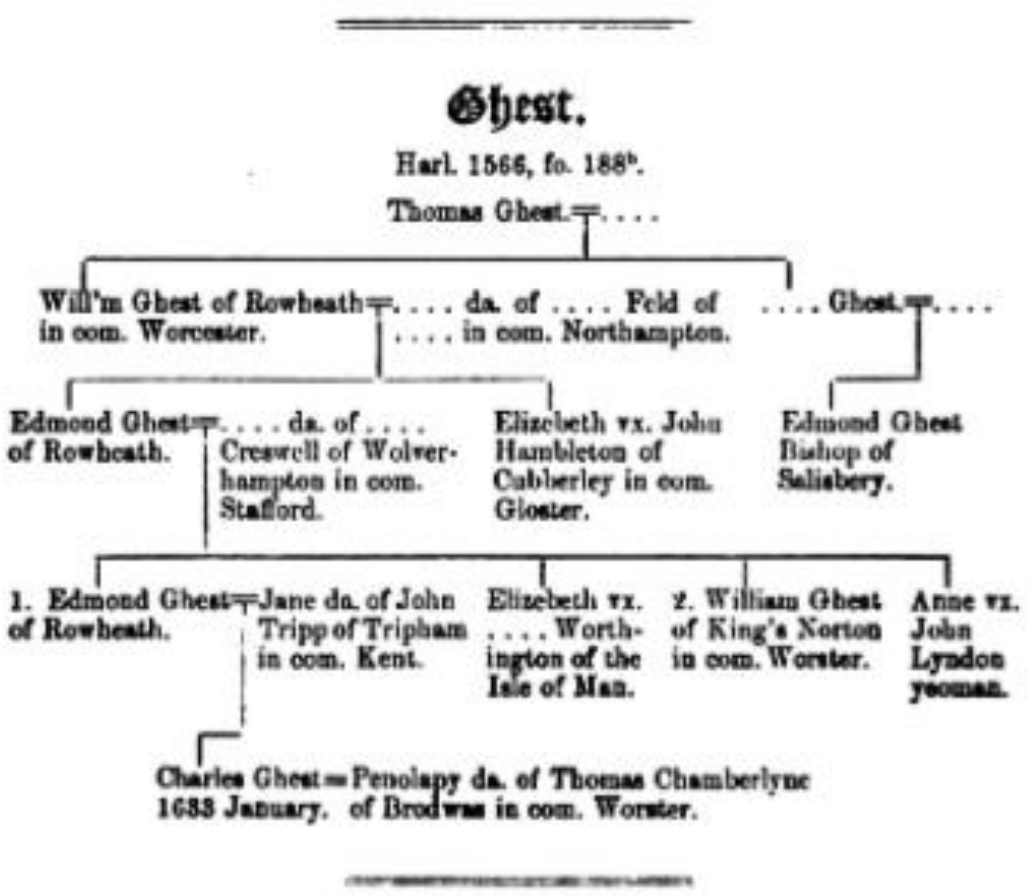
[67] Ibid, Beaver, D. (2017, p. XIV and its fn. 2).

[68] Godfrey, W.H & Wagner, A. (1963. Pp. 74-101). 'Clarenceux King of Arms', in Survey of London Monograph 16, College of Arms, Queen Victoria Street (London, 1963), British History Online https://www.british-history.ac.uk/survey-london/bk16/pp74-101.

[69] William Camden was an officer of arms at the College of Arms in London and the Clarenceux is the senior of the two provincial kings of arms and his jurisdiction was, and remains part of England south of the River Trent. The office almost certainly existed in 1420, and there is a fair degree of probability that there was a Claroncell rex heraldus armorum in 1334.

Guest's 1566 genealogical table for King's Norton, Worcestershire

Having presented the genealogical legacy of John Gest (c. 1470-c. 1537) senior and Margaret Gest, née Hawkes, along with information about how they acquired their property the Manor and lands of Handsworth, Staffordshire, located near John's childhood family seat at Row Heath in the Parish of Northfield, Worcestershire, an unaltered genealogical table for his brother, Thomas Gest (Ghest) (c. 1468-c.1521) genealogical legacy is provided below:


Ghest.
Harl. 1566, fo. 188b.
Thomas Ghest = ...
Will'm Ghest of Rowheath = ... da. of . . . . Feld of . . . . in com. Northampton.
in com. Worcester.
. . . . Ghest = ...
Edmond Ghest = ... da. of . . . . Creswell of Wolverhampton in com. Stafford.
of Rowheath.
Elizebeth vx. John Hambleton of Cubberley in com. Gloster.
Edmond Ghest Bishop of Salisbery.
1. Edmond Ghest = Jane da. of John Tripp of Tripham in com. Kent.
of Rowheath.
Elizebeth vx. . . . . Worthington of the Isle of Man.
2. William Ghest of King's Norton in com. Worster.
Anne vx. John Lyndon yeoman.
Charles Ghest = Penolapy da. of Thomas Chamberlyne
1633 January. of Brodwas in com. Worster.

The work above was that of Robert Cooke (1535-1592/3) [70] Clarenceux King at Arms,[71] at the College Arms from 1567, until the time of his death a in 1592/3, and rising to the rank of Earl Marshall. The Visitation of Worcestershire to which the table is extracted was conducted in 1569.

Next, you'll find an updated version of Cooke's table, featuring all necessary corrections clearly indicated, along with source annotations for these corrections. It clarifies that Thomas and Edmund Gest are the children of Thomas Gest (c. 1468-c. 1518), who is John's brother, rather than his descendants. Roger Gest (circa 1550-1586), the descendent of Thomas Ghest's eldest child, William Gest (circa 1489-circa 1549), who was previously omitted is included.

Next to Cooke's original table is the author's current construction, which illustrates the legacy of John Gest (c. 1470-c. 1537) Senior and his wife Margaret Gest, née Hawkes. This construction further clarifies that these two lines, originating from the same parents in King Norton, Worcestershire, are led by two brothers.

[70] Day, J. F. R. (2004). "Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, 'Cooke, Robert (d. 1593)'

[71] Cooke, Robert (CK553R), Academic Profile. A Cambridge Alumni Database. University of Cambridge. Online: https://venn.lib.cam.ac.uk/cgi-bin/search-2018.pl?sur=&suro=w&fir=&firo=c&cit=&cito=c&c=all&z=all&tex=CK553R&sye=&eye=&col=all&maxcount=50.

Guest Family of Row Heath King's Norton, Worcestershire, England
- Reconciled genealogical table by John L.R. Guest, FCDA, 2026.

Identification of overlooked family member, or their considered movement their proper place within the Ghest family of midlands' larger, interconnected genealogical table (c.f. Ghest genealogical table, page 45 above).

Ghest.

William Gest (c1429-c. 1495)
Son of Thomas Gest (c. 1398-1468) of "Berkely" & King's Norton, Worcestershire [Berkely Deed, 2nd May1468].

Harl. 1566, fo. 188b.
College of Arms Herald, Robert Cooke, 1569 Visitation of Worcestershire

Thomas Ghest.=. . . .
Born circa 1458

Will'm Ghest of Rowheath in com. Worcester.
Born circa 1479

=. . . . da. of . . . . Feld of . . . . in com. Northampton.

Edmond Ghest of Rowheath.

=. . . . da. of . . . . Creswell of Wolverhampton in com. Stafford.

Elizebeth vx. John Hambleton of Cubberley in com. Gloster.

1. Edmond Ghest of Rowheath.

=Jane da. of John Tripp of Tripham in com. Kent.

Roger Geast (c. 1520- d. 1586)

Elizebeth vx. . . . . Worthington of the Isle of Man.

2. William Ghest of King's Norton in com. Worster.

Anne vx. John Lyndon yeoman.

Charles Ghest=Penolapy da. of Thomas Chamberlyne 1633 Jannary. of Brodwas in com. Worster.

Thomas Ghest = Elizabeth Brandisby of Yorkshire.

Edmond Ghest Bishop of Salisbery.

Elizabeth Millington of Tewkesbury.

Source for correction that Bishop Edmund Ghest (15414-1577) is the grandson of Thomas Ghest (b.c. 1458-) and not John Ghest (Senior, b.c. 1460 – is Henry Geast Dugdale (1840, p.13). "The Life and Character of Edmund Gests. Pediigree of the Geste, Ghest or Geast. The source for including Roger Gest (c. 1520-1586) as a collateral relative of John Ghest (1480-1561) Junior and Giles Ghest, of [considered to be brothers, given John Jr. is Richard, Sr. [Lollard of Coventry trial testimonies 1511/2], is Dr Daniel C. Beaver (2017, p. XV] PhD, Associate Prof. Penn State University, Philadelphia, USA in "The Account Book of the Giles Geast Charity, Tewkesbury 1558-1891]. The Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society.

Elizabeth Gest, daughter of Agnes Corby. Agnes Corby likely wife of the father of Dr John Brandisby and his sister Elizabeth. Deductive reasoning makes Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Gest, mother of Bishop Edmund Gest (1514-1577) and sister "Elizabeth Millington, late of Tewkesbury." (Litzenberger, C. 1998, p. 91).

Arms and Crest of the Guest, Geste, Ghest or Geast and Pedigree*
College of Arms Herald, Sir William Dugdale, 1634 (c.f. Ghest genealogical table, in H. G. Dugdale 1840 (bf., p.1., & c.f. p13). "The Life & Character of Edmund Ghest.

John Ghest Snr = Margaret Hawkes
Born circa 1460 — Born circa 1462

John Ghest jr. (1480-1561) **= Joan Gest**
John is late of Tewkesbury 1540 moving there perhaps as a widower. He married Joan who was 19 years his senior. They married around 1500. Joan Gest 1470-) in the likely daughter of Richard & Joan Smyth, and brother of John Smyth.

1. Dyer, C. (2012, pp. 44-45). "London and Beyond."
2. "Chapter 2. The Lollards of Coventry", Gender and Heresy: Women and Men in Lollard Communities, 1420-1530. 2010, pp. 22-46.

Richard Ghest sr. Born circa 1482 =

Laurence Ghest Born circa 1485 =

Giles Ghest** (c.1490-1557) Late of Tewkesbury **= Alice Styles** (c. 1500-1581)

**Giles was awarded the original Guest arms in 1543. (1543 Harl. Ms. 1543. fo. 83b in Chitty & Phillpott 1623, p. 71, Visitation of Gloucester).

*Extracted from Sir William Dugdale's Gest, Geste, Ghest Genealogical Table 1634:

"John Geste or Ghest [Snr.], of Handsworth, Co. Stafford, admitted tenant of copyhold messuage and lands then, 12 Hen. VII [1492]. Margaret Ghest, nee Hawkes, daughter and heir of Thomas Hawkes, and great granddaughter of Henry Hawkes of Hopwood, Co. Worcester, clace to Row Heath in Kings Norton parish, in right of whom, the said John, her husband, at a court held for the Manor of Handsworth, 7 Hen. VII. [r. 1485-1509], *claimed a messuage, called Hands House, and the lands there* [in 1492], *which the said Thomas and Henry* [Hawkes] *held by knight's service, and of which they severely died, seized, 31* [1452] *and 32* [1453] *Henry VI* [r. 1421-1471].

[Source: Dugdale, H. G., 1840, p.1. "The Life and Character of Edmund Gests. Pediigree of the Geste, Ghest or Geast , and Dugdale Family by Sir William Dugdale, 1634. His 1634 genealogical compiled from the Court Rolls of Handsworth the Minister's Registry of that Place, Shushtoke and other Parishes, as well as from Title Deeds and other Authorities].

[This passage above written by Dugdale in 1634, is taken to mean in context of the historical figure King Henry VI and the events depicted in Shakespeare's Henry VI plays, the phrase "seized" refers to the point in 1452–1453 when Henry VI suffered a complete mental breakdown, becoming unresponsive for over a year at the age of 31–32. It was then that Thomas and Henry were granted Handsworth Manor and lands]. John and Margeret likely to have other issue, daughter and perhaps infants deceased which escape this search [mine].

William Gest (c. 1429-c. 1495) of King's Norton, Worcestershire in 1468

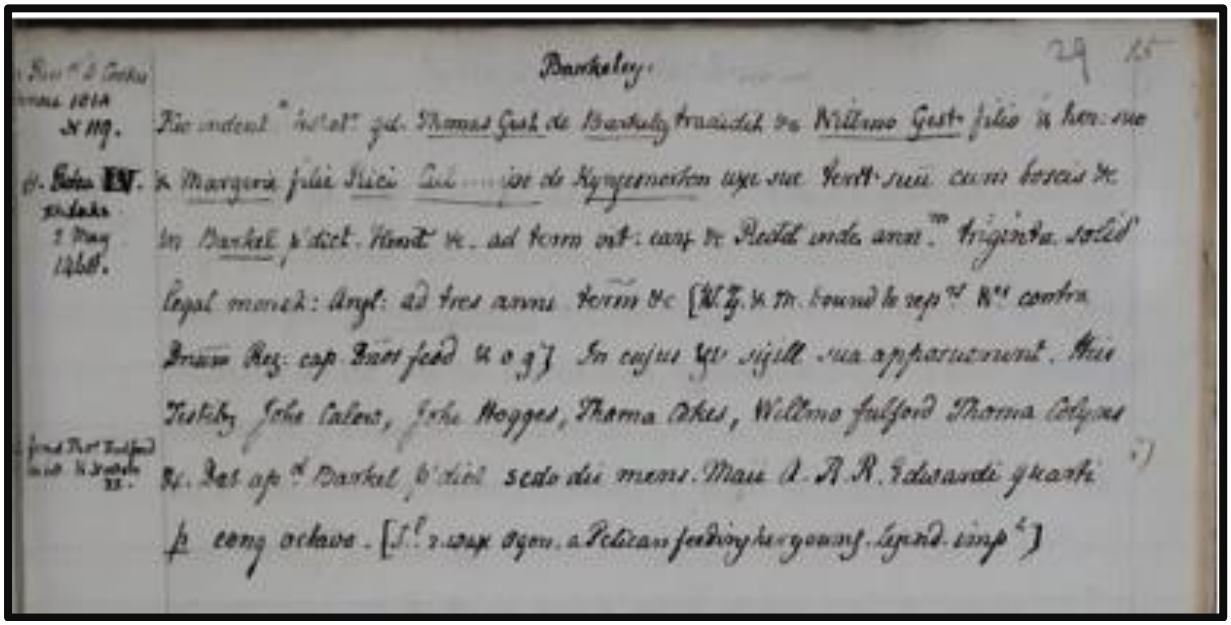
A remarkable find is the property succession deed for Thomas Gest (c. 1398-1468), which transferred his estate to his son William Gest (c. 1429-c1495). As a result, the Manor and land in Row Heath, located in the Parish of Northfield, King's Norton, were passed to William on May 2, 1468. It seems that the deceased, Thomas Gest (c. 1398-1468), preferred the property to be named Berkeley, reflecting his connection to the place Berkeley, Gloucestershire, which held significance for him. Uncertain is how long Thomas held the property in King's Norton.

Additionally, William his son and heir, inherited further land, a wooded parcel in the forests which would have been considered a valuable asset at that time. Please note that the author has translated the deed, and while every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, errors may be evident to those with Latin and legal expertise:[72]

Berkeley

His content instant - GD: Thomas Gest of Berkeley surrenders to William Gest, son of Margeria Julie Rici [Gest], property in King's Norton to break up and to stitch back together territory in the woods or forest in Berkeley in the parish district and hundred, with confirmation and payment of an annual sum of thirty shillings of lawful English money for a term of three years or until the end of three years. He (WG) is bound to represent these matters and property interests, fixed and make firm with a fixed payment or rent charge, and to have and to hold. Left is a small crate for you, appropriate in the circumstances and in relation to my demise. Here testifies John Calew, John Hogges, Thama Okes, William Fulford, Thomas Colynes.

Set and approved at Berkeley parish district, 2nd May 1468 [Sealed wax again, a Pelican feeding her young. Append. imp].[73] [mine]



[72] Society of Antiquaries of London. Transcript of a deed in Latin, headed "Barkeley". Reference code: Prattinton/02/26/008; Title: Transcript of a deed in Latin, headed "Barkeley". Level of description" Item; Scope and content: Deed refers to Thomas Gest and William Gest. Deed dated 2 May 1468.

[73] Refer to Attachment I for the worksheet (mark-up and citations) of the author's translation and hand wring interpretation effort of the Berkely Deed 2nd May 1468 script tied to this typed narrative above.

Thomas Gest (c. 1398- 1468) of "Berkley" King's Norton, Worcestershire

It is unclear how long Thomas Gest, the father of William Gest, who was associated with the Berkeley Manor and lands in Row Heath, King's Norton, Worcestershire, held a parcel of land-likely small-near Berkeley Castle and Town in Gloucestershire. This woodland or forestland appears to have generated income from timber sales for both commercial and personal use by the Guest family.

The documentation, which includes contributions from various historians and researchers, confirms the Guest family's presence in King's Norton during the 15th and 16th centuries. The property associated with them, commonly known as the Guest Manor and the lands in Row Heath, Parish of Northfield, King's Norton, should not be confused with Guest Berkeley Manor or its lands. It seems that after Thomas' wrote he wishes down that his son inherit his real property as witnessed by his trusted friends William nor his offspring heirs apply the Berkely name to their Guest family property, Row Heath, Parish of Northfield, King's Norton, Worcestershire.

Hereafter, the author will continue with the existing nomenclature referring to the Guest property in King's Norton as such. Also, in presenting what is to follow, the author will further remain in the habit of estimating the life span of the next patriline ancestor, in this case Thomas, Willliam's father, being also in the habit of continually adjusting or calibrating the life-span estimates for earlier patriline members previously considered trustworthy inclusions into the developing identified persons' Guest family tree 1577-945. Well, considered approximations are important to sharpen search investigation for the next target and to discern between prospects and distractors.

In the case of Thomas, with the discovery of the Berkeley Deed time stamped 2nd May 1468, it is fair to conclude he died in the year 1468. If fresh evidence points to, or confirms a different year this adjustment would have been made in this book. Suffice to say no contrary evidence uncovered and he is confirmed to have died in 1468.

For records search purposes for him and a prosect father an average age approximation is set as 63 years of age giving the search parameter for records of him and potentially an overlapping life span of his parent(s) from his estimated birth year 1398.

If evidence of his actual birth year is recovered adjustment to his life span made. This is exactly the same process employed earlier to others placed on the patriline and up until this point confirmed as lineal ancestors for the Guest family of King's Norton's two stems Handsworth and Tewkesbury covered in Book I.

This standard applied practice for advancing an ascending trace has served well by the quality of evidence of genealogical continuity nature up until this point. That said, the trace is now moving towards rarified air which accords with the popular phrase the dark ages. This is taken by the author to simply mean entering the period when a few were literature and could write documents making documentary evidence rare.

Tempering the thoughtful yet enthusiastic investigator's search for evidence revealing the remaining identities who were Thomas Gest (c. 1398-1468) patrilineal ancestors taking their rightful place of the Guest family tree standing between Thomas and progenitor Saeric (c. 1035-1108) whose surname and that of his two brothers captured in the Great Domesday Book for the year 1066.

Hence two search paradigms are reflected in this book. The first, which is a reflection of the present and present trace to identify personally those standing between Thomas and Saeric, and lock-step, trace the paternal and maternal ancestors in an unchartered trace beyond him as fare as pre-conquest documented history and record will permit.

Found are records for a Thomas Gest. dated 1440 back to 1420. The 1440 and 1420 records are likely interconnected including the so name persons bearing the surnames Gest x 2 (Thomas and John); and Perry (Thomas and Robert), closely related with the Gests and Perrys interconnected further by business.

The more recent 1440 record made in Staffordshire, first, made possibly around the time of his father's death, on face value, John Gest[lyng], juror of Staffordshire in 1409.[74] This record has Thomas Gest the defendant living in Cinnon (Chinnor) Oxon (Oxfordshire) near Great Missenden and Little Missenden, Buckinghamshire. This place is geographically associated with lands very close nearby owned by Saeric and his family during the 1066 Conquest, as further evidence subsequently submitted attests.

Roll Date	Image	County	Plea	Plaintiffs	Defendants
1440	1165	Stafford	Debt	**Jeke, Henry of Tamworth, Staffordshire**	**Gest, Thomas, of Chynnore, Oxon**[75]

The village Chinnor, once called "Chynmore, Oxon" [Oxfordshire], is situated close to Great and Little Missenden, and no greater distance apart, door-to-door, 14 kilometres or 9 miles, as shown below:

[74] Court hearings, in the reign of Henry VI for the year 1440. Defendant (debtor), Thomas Gest of Clynmore, Oxon, Plaintiff Henry Jeke of Tamworth, Staffordshire. CP40no717. Compiled by Rosemary Simons. Waalt, University of Houston.
[75] The Meriam-Webster Dictionary Definition of "Husbandman" – A 14th century widely used term to describe a "a person who cultivates the land; a farmer" and "a specialist in a branch of farm husbandry".

In the 14th century, the landscape connecting Gloucestershire, Worcestershire, and Oxfordshire was characterised by established routes that facilitated regular, albeit slow, movement of people, goods, and communication. The area around Chinnor, located in South Oxfordshire near the Chiltern escarpment, was connected to Row Heath/King's Norton, the Midlands, via ancient trackways, including the Icknield Way. A 14th century journey from Chinnor to King's Norton (then in Worcestershire) would likely have passed through Oxford, following routes used for regional trade and familial visits.

In the 14th century, the region spanning Oxfordshire, Worcestershire, and Gloucestershire formed a core area of England's prosperous wool-producing economy, with landed families, merchants, and monastic houses engaging in a robust, interconnected trade network. The trade was characterized by the movement of raw wool and increasingly finished cloth, driven by the wealth generated from Cotswold sheep, and supported by a stable network of Roman-influenced roads, specifically connecting the Cotswold hills, the Severn Valley, and the Upper Thames.[76]

The route from Berkeley, Gloucestershire, northward to King's Norton, Worcestershire, followed paths in the Severn Vale, heavily influenced by the presence of significant landholders, including the Berkeley family, who held interests in Northfield, adjacent to King's Norton. During this period, travel was common, particularly for those connected to landed estates or trade networks. While travel for the peasantry was limited, the gentry and merchant classes maintained regular travel between regional centers to visit relatives, manage estates, or arrange marriages.[77]

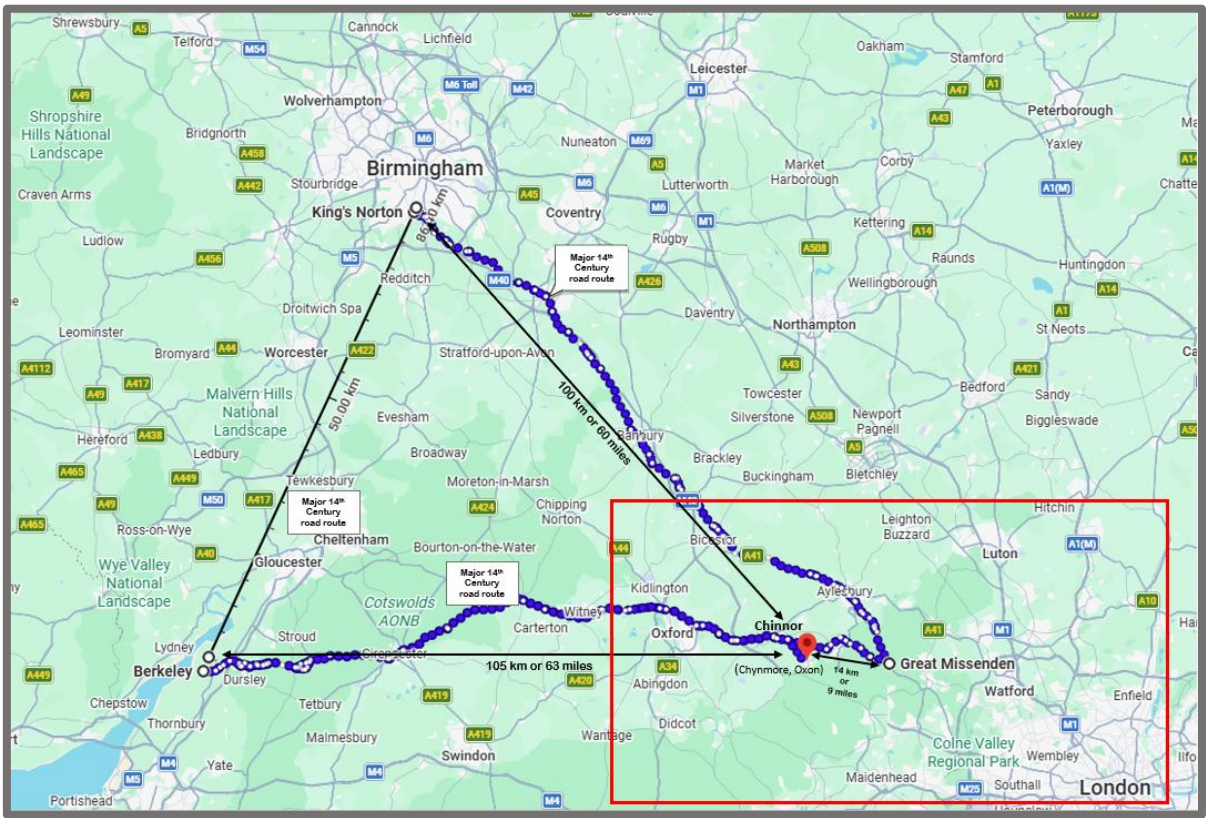
As noted in the prompt, it was customary for sons to leave home to become heirs elsewhere, or for younger sons to seek their fortune as "self-made men," strengthening familial bonds through, and maintaining social standing by, traveling between family residences and trading posts. While not paved as modern roads, these routes were well-worn by regular traffic, including sheep drovers, merchants, and messengers.

The 14th century saw significant structural development in the area; for instance, St. Andrew’s Church in Chinnor was largely reconstructed in the 14th century, indicating active local craftsmanship and wealth. Similarly, the Berkeley family was expanding their influence in the region during the same period. Chinnor, Oxfordshire is 100 kilometres or 60 miles south east of Row Heath, King’s Norton, Worcestershire (Warwickshire) and about the same distance from Berkely, Gloucestershire.

[76] 'Medieval Gloucester: Trade and Industry 1327-1547', in A History of the County of Gloucester: Volume 4, the City of Gloucester. Edited by N M Herbert (London, 1988), British History Online, accessed February 9, 2026, https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/glos/vol4/pp41-54.

[77] Specific bibliography for this 14th century transport history narrative: Kuijer, M. C. (2024). The History of Transportation; Matessi, A. (2021). The ways of an empire: Continuity and change of route landscapes across the Taurus during the Hittite Period (ca. 1650–1200 BCE), Journal of Anthropological Archaeology, Volume 62, 2021; The Fleming Report (1944), The Public Schools and the General Educational System. Report of the Committee on Public Schools appointed by the President of the Board of Education in July 1942. London: His Majesty's Stationery Office 1944.

The distance between Berkey to King's Norton, heading north, north-east a little less, 86 kilometres or around 55 miles:



The two early court records for 1420 and 1421, involving the plaintiffs same named Perry; and defendants same named Gest, shown below. Thomas Gest (Geste) of Lympsham, Somerset, with the special profession of husbandry, connected to John Gest by him also being connected to a bearer of the family name Perry, Thomas Pyrrhy of Norfolk, whereby John Gest is a Cooper of Thetford:

Roll Date	Image	County	Plea	Plaintiffs	Defendants
1420	676	London	Debt	**Warren, Thomas, executors of; (Perrye, Robert; Elizabeth his wife)**	Marne, Richard, of Lympsham, Somerset, husbandman; **Geste, Thomas, of Lympsham, Somerset husbandman**[78]
1421	76	Norfolk	Debt	**Pyrrhy, Thomas**	**Gest, John, of Thetford, cooper**[79]

Coincidental perhaps. However, given the rarity or the bearers of the Guest name, at any time, and especially in medieval England early14th century and beyond, and the associate obits Gest-Perry for these four men in 1420-1421, the lean is strongly towards the Pery's brothers and the same for the Gests. At a minimum, of further distant than each respective duo, first cousins.

[78] The Meriam-Webster Dictionary Definition of "Husbandman" – A 14th century widely used term to describe a "a person who cultivates the land; a farmer" and "a specialist in a branch of farm husbandry".

[79] Court hearings, in the 35th year of Henry V's reign, 1421. Defendant (debtor), John Gest of Thetford, Norfolk. Plaintiff Thomas Pyrry. CP40/1420-1: K-Z. Compiled by Vance Mead. Waalt, University of Houston.

These leads found in court records probably lodged in the place his client so to speak sort relief and resided. Whereas records uncovered, have Thomas Gest in 1440 is Staffordshire and earlier in 1420, Lympsham, Somerset,[80] where he resided as it seems at the time.

If these records and persons all captured below in court records for 1420 and 1421 are interconnected by familia, friendship and/or business relations, the probability is that Thomas and John Gest are closely related, brothers more likely than first cousins, Supposing that John Gest likely to both have been one time settled briefly in Somerset before temporarily in Norfolk and before returning back to the property held by their father in Berkeley, Gloucestershire and/or King's Norton, Worcestershire when Thomas took possession and their father's property succeeding as heir:

Roll Date	Image	County	Plea	Plaintiffs	Defendants
1421	76	Norfolk	debt	**Pyrrhy, Thomas**	**Gest, John, of Thetford, cooper**[81]
1420	676	London	debt	**Warren, Thomas, executors of; (Perrye, Robert; Elizabeth his wife)**	Marne, Richard, of Lympsham, Somerset, husbandman; **Geste, Thomas, of Lympsham, Somerset husbandman**[82]

Thomas Gest (c. 1398-1468) once of Lympsham Somerset, likely left there in 1422/3 upon the death of his father, and like in 1420, was involved as a defendant in 1440 in Staffordshire in perhaps a similar matter, for an outstanding payment not made to Henry Jeke of Staffordshire.

Henry likely to either be the client sheep and wool farmer of Thomas Gest (c. 1398-1468) or another of Thomas's sub-contractor in husbandry services engaged to manage the Staffordshire region of Thomas Gest's husbandry business then likely run out of his state at Row Heath, Northfield, King's Norton, Worcestershire. An area overlapping with the neighbouring count of Staffordshire.

Whilst Robert's brother, Thomas Perry, and John Gest,[83] the brother of Thomas Gest, leaving Lympsham Somerset as friends for work opportunities and settlement in Thetford Norfolk. Likely also some other similar events giving just cause to believe these two sets of brothers found in record for these two places and giving rise for making these records through a failed funds transfer but useful to record and recognise the Gest and Perry's ties in 1420 and 1421 to these places and pointing back to the more recent 1440 record for Thomas Gest, considered the same man as Thomas Gest involved in the 1420/21 record set connected back to the place Staffordshire, a Gest family seat of significance, in a particular, Row Heath, Northfield, King's Norton, Worcestershire.

Also found in record, in 1409, is John Gestlyng, juror of Staffordshire. In 1409 he had to be of adult age, likely at least 21 years of age or so. Gleaned from this record is that he held property and part of the landed status among the community and made certain under the rule of qualification for qualify at the time.

[80] Thomas Gest (c. 1398-1468) likely to have owed Robert Peery at the time of his death outstanding wages and his widow sort relief from her husband's debtors.
[81] Court hearings, in the 35th year of Henry V's reign, 1421. Defendant (debtor), John Gest of Thetford, Norfolk. Plaintiff Thomas Pyrry. CP40/1420-1: K-Z. Compiled by Vance Mead. Waalt, University of Houston.
[82] The Meriam-Webster Dictionary Definition of "Husbandman" – A 14th century widely used term to describe a "a person who cultivates the land; a farmer" and "a specialist in a branch of farm husbandry".
[83] John Gest of Thetford, Norfolk, a cooper, likely owed Thomas (Perry) of Thetford, Norfolk money for unpaid work.

This record and inferred social status as a land owners accords with him holding Row Heath, King's Norton, which is less than 15 kilometres of 10 miles south east of Dudley, a centre at the time where court cases were held.

Deductively, John Gestlying the juror as a rostered juror was expected to frequently attend at Dudley court, and living at King's Norton would enable him to comply with travel to and from, no burden.

The inferred from these matters, and made explicit, is that John Gestlyng, juror of Staffordshire is the father of Thomas Gest (c.1398-1468) and, John Gest (c. 1400-c. 1463), Cooper of Norfolk in 1420.

This makes Thomas and John's father, the grandfather of Thomas's heir in 1468 of the same property, King's Norton and Berkeley, Gloucestershire, William Gest (c. 1429-c. 1495), in turn the father of yet another pair of brother's Gest, named Thomas and John Gest of King's Norton born respectively about in 1468 and 1470.

When Thomas succeeds to the Gest properties around 1422/3, he permitted and likely encouraged his brother to occupy the Berkeley timberland property in Gloucestershire. John Gest c. 1400-c. 1463) the Cooper easily seen to benefit by harvesting time as a Cooper to build his business and Thomas in turn looking after the welfare of his younger brother.

Prima facie, Thomas Gest's father is identified, and his is considered to be John Gestyling (c. 1358-c.1422/3). He is selected from a very small population of prospects. The other, most likely collateral relatives of various degrees are listed below, along with documentary evidence of their existence. John, is found to be a qualified juror of Staffordshire, with the closest likely court for his jury service engagement Dudley, Worcestershire/Staffordshire, less than 15 kilometres or 10 miles from the furthest, unknown boundary fence post of the Guest property in the parish of Northfield, King's Norton, Worcestershire.

Several assumption impact here on him being the father of Thomas. First Thomas may have inherited "Berkeley" King's Norton from his father John who held it first. Second, John must likely to have been born circa 1380, to be Thomas's father born about say 1405. Confirming John's maturity to be a father is his record of being appointed a juror in 1409 in Staffordshire. Consideration is then given to no record found before John in the immediate search areas ringing so to speak the town of Dudley. The next best record found is the 1379, Yorkshire Poll Tax record.

At first glance, it may seem unusual that a match for John Gestyng, a juror in Staffordshire in 1409, is not dismissed in relation to a 1379 Yorkshire Poll Tax record. A closer look reveals the likely connection to Johannes Gestling from 1379, who is probably Gest (circa 1358-circa 1422/3), also known as John Gestlyng. Given that he needed to be over 16 to be taxed, it's plausible he was of the right age to be Thomas's father. Additionally, there are no other individuals with name or similar spellings that could cause confusion, and the pool of Guest males at that time was quite limited.

Other antecedent facts make for the match, looking beyond the obvious of the very good naming match whereby Johannes is the Latin baptism name for John and the match suffix 'lyng" (family of) Guest whilst critical important, is that his family unit, doubtless in Yorkshires demonstrates a patten of being qualified jurors.

The family of John Gest (circa 1358-circa 1422/3), also known as John Gestlyng, a juror for Staffordshire and recorded in the 1379 Yorkshire Poll Tax as Johannes (John) Gest of Yorkshire is likely the second cousin of Robert Gest, a juror for Yorkshire in 1429. This Robert may be the son of John's brother, son of Roger, or possibly the son of John's cousin Robert, son of Robert, who is brother of Roger. Below is the record of Robert Gest, a juror 1429 in Yorkshire:[84]

Inquisitions Post Mortem

Mapping the Medieval Countryside

Properties, Places & People

THOMAS THORNORE

341 Writ. ‡ 10 October 1429. [Mapilton].

YORKSHIRE. Inquisition. Wentbridge 26 October 1429. [Fitzwilliam].

Jurors: Thomas Walden ; Robert Gest ; William Hode ; John Chapman ; Robert Wayland ; William Burgh ; John Rychardson ; Hugh Pees ; Robert Johanson ; John Dypse ; Thomas Batlay ; Robert Kyghlay ; John Flynthil ; and William Johanson .

He was seised of the following but enfeoffed William Haryngton, knight , and John Tong , to hold to them and their heirs in perpetuity of the chief lords of the fee by due service.

Calverley, a messuage, annual value 40s., held of Walter Calverlay by fealty and rent of 2s. 2d. yearly.

Eccleshill, the manor, annual value 60s., held of Henry Brounflete, knight , and Joan his wife by rent of 10s. yearly.

Farsley, a messuage and 5 bovates, annual value 30s., held of the king as of the honour of Pontefract by rent of 2s. 6½d. yearly.

William and John have continued in the same estate since the enfeoffment and still occupy the above. Thomas thus did not die seised of either the above or any other lands or tenements.

He died on 6 October last. Robert Thornore is his son and next heir, and aged 40 and more.

C 139/43/14 mm 1–2

Robert Gest was a juror in 1420 for Yorkshire and a contemporary and third cousin of Thomas Gest (. 1398-1468) and John Gest (c. 1400-1463), who worked as a Cooper in Norfolk in 1421. He is considered to have been raised along with his brother Thomas, at Guest manor and lands in Row Heath, located in the parish of Northfield, Worcestershire. The familial ties among the Guests may prompted John Gest and Thomas Perry (Pyrrhy) to temporarily relocate from Somerset to Norfolk around 1420/1 for a visitation and extended stay.

[84] Index of Jurors, "Gest, Robert, Yorkshire (1429), 23-341". Listed in Inquisitions, Post Mortem: Mapping the Medieval Countryside, Property, Place and People.

John Gestlyng (c. 1358-c. 1422/3), Juror, of nearby Staffordshire

John Gestlyng from Staffordshire as a juror, [85] [86] [87] had to be landed by 1409, attesting to him holding Guest manor and lands in Row Heath, Northfield, King's Norton, Worcestershire where the evidence points. He is considered to have styled himself Guest-ling (Gest-lyng) and born John Gest (Johannes).

The provenance of the extended patronym "Gestlyng," is subsequently traced back to southeast England back to Gestling, Sussex as early as 945.A matter later pursued. That said, it was an adopted style which was John's decision after the time of the 1379 Poll Tax. John paid his own Poll Tax of 4d suggesting two things. First, he was of a humble income and second hew was over 16 years of age.

The suggestion is he later did well and once his came into the landed estate circa 1396/7 and after taking hold of King's Norton from his marriage to the daughter of a former holder of the property, perhaps feeling elevated, from once he came, he took the extended name known to the Guest family as "Gestlyng" (*Guest-ling; Guest-family*) but a usual patronymic as it once was patronymic, extinct circa 1330 in Sussex where it was prominent. No other of the family of Yorkshire or elsewhere after 1330 styled themselves the Gestling.

Further detected, is that his sons remained with the surname in its normal form Gest. John's first-born Thomas Gest, died in 1468. This suggests he lived to a ripe age for the time aged about 70 years and unlikely born any earlier or later than 1398 given records for his father, his son and records he and his younger brother, a non-heir as it seems made in 1420/21.

By further deduction their father John likely more than to have been about 36 years old when he married their mother, considered significantly younger. Perhaps John was previously married and may have had children from a first marriage?

Despite this possibility clear is that his heir was Thomas born circa 1398. Not ruling out an earlier marriage, likely is that John's wife, inherited the Gest family property King's Norton, which was placed in John Gestling (c. 1358-c. 1422/3) name. This could have been a few years after they married circa 1396 but before John qualified as a juror, in 1409. Indicating perhaps John a minor holder of land from at least 1396, in or around Staffordshire where he met his wife.

After her father died, and no male heir the property went to her husband John. This would speculatively explain the Burntwood connection at Staffordshire and why Burntwood persisted as a place of significance, perhaps, being used by hiking (1874s lineal descendant in Tipperary Ireland by another John Guest (c.1786-1864), and also a qualified juror of the Crown's court but in Victorian Ireland.

John Gestlyng, the juror of Staffordshire is a direct match with an infant or under age child named Johannes Gestlyng of Yorkshire. This Latin baptismal personal name for John, with the appellation of "Family" "Lyng/ling" an early Anglo-Saxon custom and tied to the Guest family of much earlier time to Gestlyng/Gestling/Guestling, and the place of that name Guestling, still existing in Sussex, makes for a very rare identifier, as minimum and likely a unique identifier for John Gestlyng juror of Staffordshire in 1409 to his family home town as a child in Yorkshire.

[85] Index of Jurors, "Geslyng, John, Staffordshire (1409), 19-582". Listed in Inquisitions, Post Mortem: Mapping the Medieval Countryside, Property, Place and People.
[86] Baker, J. H. (2002). An Introduction to English Legal History (4th ed.). London: Butterworths. pp. 72–76.
[87] Crosby, K (2017). "Keeping Women off the Jury in 1920s England and Wales". Legal Studies. 37 (4): 695–717.

This may well be why Bishop Edmund Gest (Ghest/Guest) and his father Thomas found it best to live for some time in North Allerton, Yorkshire leaving Thomas's birthplace in King's Norton circa 1512. For this to make sense, the Gest family taken back to the Yorkshire Poll Tax evidence 1379 to be submitted below and whom remained in Yorkshire remained connected socially to the branch established from perhaps earlier 15th century, 1402 or so in midlands, Staffordshire and Kings' Norton, Worcestershire.

Implied is the Yorkshire branch of the 16th century which was joined for a while with the family of Thomas Gest born in King's Norton and father of Edmund Gest (1514-1577) who was born in North Allerton, Yorkshire, was a patriline of one of John Gestling the juror's brother or fist cousin that remained in contact despite the passing of over a century in time. Below is the 1379 Yorkshire Poll Tax record referred to for John Gestlyng (c. 1358-1422/3) juror of King's Norton per se, near certain to be the same man as Johannes Gestling living in 1379 of Drighlington, West Riding, Yorkshire. [88] [89] [90]

The entry found for Johannes Gestlyng with its 1379 Poll Tax sourced with gratitude from Hanks, P., Coates, R., & McLure, P., (2016, p. 1144) research, Oxford Dictionary of Family Names of Britain and Ireland has him as a young adult making his way in life and earning an income because Poll Tax was paid by him: [91] [92] [93]

Guest

Variants: **Guess**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 10159, Ireland 192
- **GB frequency 1881:** 6366
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks and Lancs; Staffs and Worcs
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Tipperary

English: nickname, status name from Middle English *gest* 'guest, stranger'.

Early bearers: Benwoldus Gest, about 1100 in *Tengvik*; Richard le Gest, about 1248 in *Bec Abbey Documents* (Middx); Thomas le Gest, 1275 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); Johannes Gest, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Drighlington, WR Yorks); Robertus le Gest, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Bedford, Lancs); Richard Gest, 1407 in *PROB 11* (Friars Minors, City of London); Ellene Guest, 1560, Mary Guess, 1818 in *IGI* (Chester, Cheshire); Mary Guest, 1612 in *IGI* (Warehorne, Kent); John Guest, 1692 in *IGI* (Thornborough, Bucks); John Guess, 1745, William Guest, 1824 in *IGI* (Bedford, Beds).

[88] Hanks, P., Coates, R., & McLure, P., (2016, p. 1144). Oxford Dictionary of Family Names in Britain and Ireland.
[89] 14th-century industrial records for Drighlington are scarce, the area was part of the wider West Riding, which was developing as an agricultural and, later, industrial area. Nearby areas, such as Gildersome, were known for "assarting" (clearing woods for farmland) in the preceding century, suggesting a landscape of agricultural expansion.
[90] Drighlington is situated about 40 miles or 64 kilometres south of Northallerton the location where Bishop Edmund Gest (1514-1577) was born, and his father lived, born Row Heath, Parish of Northfield, King's Norton, Worcestershire. Father Thomas's birth place, 15 kilometres or 10 miles south of Dudley Staffordshire, where John Gestlyng (Johannes Gest) attended jury service from 1409.
[91] Christensen, P. (Dr.) (2012). "Poll Taxes 1377-1380'. The International Institute of Genealogical Studies. An excerpt from their course English: Taxes, Lists, Business, Electoral and Insurance Records.
[92] Dowell, Stephen (1884). A History of Taxation and Taxes in England. Vol. 1. Taxation, from the earliest times to the Civil War. Longman, Green & Co.
[93] C.f., the same, Mortimer, Thomas (1764). A New History of England.

The earliest mention of Drighlington is to be found in the Great Domesday Book of 1086, in the forms "Dreslintone" and "Dreslingtone." [94] [95] The village is at the junction of the Leeds-Halifax road and the Tong to Gildersome Street Road, which was once was part of the Bradford to Wakefield Road.

Drighlington known to locals as "Drig" [96] at the time John was there is known to have been a village operated under a manorial system with open-field farming.[97] Tenants held scattered strips of land (selions) and used co-operative methods for ploughing. During the late 14th century, many local manors were under the control of powerful regional families or religious institutions, such as the Abbot of Vale Royal or the Bishops of Durham, who managed land revenues and tenant services.

Historically the village sat on the Roman road connecting York and Chester, which served as a primary thoroughfare for trade and military movement through the West Riding. Given John as juror and land holder in 1409 in Staffordshire a wool generating area and trading area for cloth as was King's Norton, it appears he made a fist of his opportunities whatever they may have been in Drighlington, exercising a fair degree of business acumen.

Roger Gest (c. 1330- Aft. 1379) of Yorkshire

John Gestyng (c. 1358-c. 1422/3) juror of Staffordshire in 1409, and otherwise known as Johannes [John] Gest of Drighlington, West Riding, Yorkshire in 1379, aged about 21 years old, is the considered to be the first born of Rogerus Gest (c. 1330-aft. 1379) and Isabella Gest of Staincross Wapentake, Felkirk parish, South Hiendley.

Reconciled is this child parent relationship by comparing what is now considered companion records for John Gest (c. 1358-c. 1422/3) juror of Staffordshire in 1409, and property owner in King's Norton, Worcestershire and Berkeley, Gloucestershire the small but valuable asset, a timbered allotment, with the 1379 Yorkshire Poll Tax listing for him in nearby Drighlington aged about 21 years and living independently, and the same Yorkshire Poll Tax roll for 1379, identifying Roger and Isabella Gest in 1379, and their children all over the age of 16 in 1379, remaining living with John's parents by record of 1379. [98]

The reconciliation lends itself to the following family unit being recognised:

Roger Gest (c. 1330-aft. 1379) = Isabella (c. 1338-aft 1379)
Parent of John Gest [99] born circa 1358 of Drighlington Yorkshire in 1379, late of King's Norton, Worcestershire 1422/3; William Gest born circa 1360; Robert Gest born 1362 (possible father of Robert Gest of Yorkshire, juror in 1429); and Cecilia Gest bone circa 1363.

[94] Drighlington" Internet Archives, 29 November 2014; Domesdaymap.co.uk; "Documents Online: Drighlington", Folio: 318r, 379v, Great Domesday Book; The National Archives.
[95] Parkin, H. (2017, p. 14). Your City's Place-Names: Leeds, English Place-Name Society City-Names Series, 3, Nottingham: English Place-Name Society.
[96] UK Census (2011). "Local Area Report – Drighlington Parish (E04000220)". Nomis. Office for National Statistics. Retrieved 7th February 2026.
[97] 14th-century industrial records for Drighlington are scarce, the area was part of the wider West Riding, which was developing as an agricultural and, later, industrial area. Nearby areas, such as Gildersome, were known for "assarting" (clearing woods for farmland) in the preceding century, suggesting a landscape of agricultural expansion.
[98] Hinson, C. (2024). Yorkshire: Subsidy Rolls (Poll Tax) for the Year 1379. Refer: Subsidy Roll (Poll Tax) for 1379 for the Yorkshire parish of Felkirk. "Roger and Isabella uxor". Roger and Isabell Gest's family household in 1379, Staincross Wapentake, Felkirk parish, South Hiendley. Also, Roger's brother: "Robertus Gest Margareta uxor". Transcribed from "The Yorkshire Archaeological and Topographical Journals." Information reproduced here by kind agreement with the Yorkshire Archaeological Society.
OCR, checking and correction by Peter Nelson, 2001 as cited by Hinson, 2024.
[99] C.f. Hanks, P., Coates, R., & McLure, P., (2016, p. 1144).

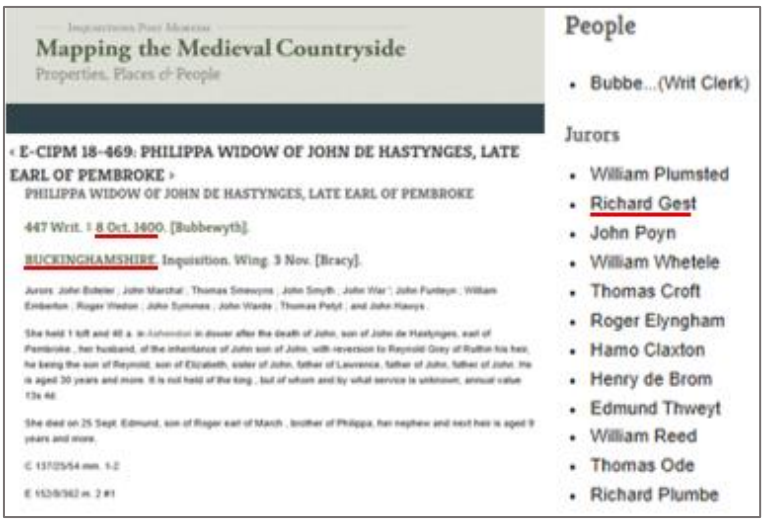
Roger and Isabella Gest paid the 4d Poll Tax for their children still living at home is 1379. The tax paid 4d each was the rate for a non-tradesman suggesting further the Gest of Yorkshire at this time were of humble means.

Roger Gest (c. 1330-aft. 1379) is doubtless the brother of Robert Gest [100] also of the same place, Staincross Wapentake, Felkirk parish, South Hiendley, West Riding, Yorkshire and also paying the same tax amount fort their over age children. Again, of humble wealth and means. This Robert may well be the father of Robert Gest of Yorkshire, juror in 1429.

More likely than not however, Roger and Isabella Gest are John's parents rather than Robert and his wife Margaret.[101] The reasoning briefly stepped out recognises that the personal name Robert, is not used commonly by the Guest family branch descending through King's Norton, and limited to as it seems and antecedent of the Guest family branch of earlier time in Yorkshire.

At this juncture and in context of advancing the patrilineal bloodline, there is no consequence in making Roger, John's father, even if an error is later found, necessitating reversion to John's father being Robert. This is so because in a genealogical context, these two brothers share the same patrilineal bloodline.

Unable to be reconciled with the Guest family tree, is Richard Gest, juror in 1400 and of Norfolk, [102]engaged in jury service to help determine a significant peerage succession claim: [103]



It is highly likely, nearly certain, that Richard is a family member of various degrees of relation to the current lineage examined in this study of the Guest family. This connection may explain why the sons of Richard's contemporary, John Gest (c. 1358-c. 1422/3), who was originally from Yorkshire and later resided in Staffordshire and King Norton, Worcestershire, were found likely in Colston, Norfolk around 1420/1.

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[100] Rogerus and Robertus Gest West, Riding, Yorkshire, Yorkshire Poll Tax Rolls of 1379. In Fenwick, C. C (2005). The Poll Taxes of 1377, 1379, and 1381: Part 3. Wiltshire - Yorkshire (Records of Social and Economic History, 37).

101 Rogerus and Robertus Gest West, Riding, Yorkshire, Yorkshire Poll Tax Rolls of 1379. In Fenwick, C. C (2005). The Poll Taxes of 1377, 1379, and 1381: Part 3. Wiltshire - Yorkshire (Records of Social and Economic History, 37).

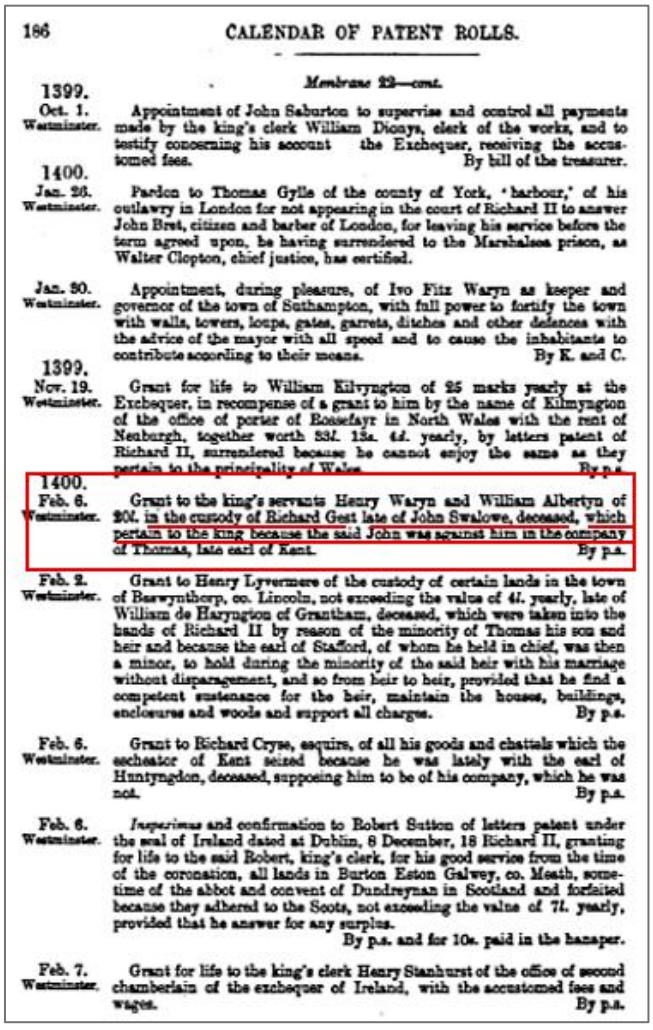
102 People – Juror Richard Gest. King's College London, 2014. | Mapping the Medieval Countryside [online]. Available at http://www.inquisitionspostmortem.ac.uk/view/inquisition/18-447/469 [Accessed: 29/5/2024] King's College London, 2014. | Mapping the Medieval Countryside [online]. Available at http://www.inquisitionspostmortem.ac.uk/view/inquisition/18-447/469.html [Accessed: 11/2/2026].

103 King's College London, 2014. | Mapping the Medieval Countryside [online]. Available at http://www.inquisitionspostmortem.ac.uk/view/inquisition/18-447/469 [Accessed: 29/5/2024] King's College London, 2014. | Mapping the Medieval Countryside [online]. Available at http://www.inquisitionspostmortem.ac.uk/view/inquisition/18-447/469.html [Accessed: 11/2/2026].

They may have been visiting relatives of close kinship, a son of Richard Gest of Colston, Norfolk who died as it now seems not in 1399 but 1400, sometime after February 6th 1400 and before May 25th 1400. He may well be the same man Richard Gest, juror of Colston, Norfolk, in the peerage case of 1400 and given the relatively exacting personal details with no competitor sharing these personal details, he is further likely to be the same man, Richard Gest, the three-decade long servants of John Gaunt engaged as his Clerk of the Kitchen, [104]who is recognised by some historians to have died in 1399.

The year is reconciled to be 1400, [105] making him the same Richard who participated as a juror in the previously cited court case in 1400. The calendar anomalies are well documented and historians and researcher's, including genealogists advised to take note of the anomalies in time stamping evidence.[106]

Whereas, very specifically the matter of Richard Gest, Clerk of the Kitchen for Joahn Gaunt for three decades, is resolved to be after February 6th 1400 to May 25th 1400, in which the record to follow shows he was alive and possession of an object to be passed onto servants of the King, in which Richard Gest held it after being re-possessed from John Swallowe who held it and was recently deceased:



186 CALENDAR OF PATENT ROLLS.

Membrane 22—cont.

1399. Oct. 1. Westminster. Appointment of John Saburton to supervise and control all payments made by the king's clerk William Dionys, clerk of the works, and to testify concerning his account the Exchequer, receiving the accustomed fees. By bill of the treasurer.

1400. Jan. 26. Westminster. Pardon to Thomas Gylle of the county of York, 'harbour,' of his outlawry in London for not appearing in the court of Richard II to answer John Bret, citizen and barber of London, for leaving his service before the term agreed upon, he having surrendered to the Marshalsea prison, as Walter Clopton, chief justice, has certified.

Jan. 30. Westminster. Appointment, during pleasure, of Ivo Fitz Waryn as keeper and governor of the town of Suthampton, with full power to fortify the town with walls, towers, loups, gates, garrets, ditches and other defences with the advice of the mayor with all speed and to cause the inhabitants to contribute according to their means. By K. and C.

1399. Nov. 19. Westminster. Grant for life to William Kilvyngton of 25 marks yearly at the Exchequer, in recompense of a grant to him by the name of Kilmyngton of the office of porter of Rossefayr in North Wales with the rent of Neuburgh, together worth 53*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* yearly, by letters patent of Richard II, surrendered because he cannot enjoy the same as they pertain to the principality of Wales. By p.s.

1400. Feb. 6. Westminster. Grant to the king's servants Henry Waryn and William Albertyn of 20*l.* in the custody of Richard Gest late of John Swalowe, deceased, which pertain to the king because the said John was against him in the company of Thomas, late earl of Kent. By p.s.

Feb. 2. Westminster. Grant to Henry Lyvermere of the custody of certain lands in the town of Beswyntherp, co. Lincoln, not exceeding the value of 4*l.* yearly, late of William de Haryngton of Grantham, deceased, which were taken into the hands of Richard II by reason of the minority of Thomas his son and heir and because the earl of Stafford, of whom he held in chief, was then a minor, to hold during the minority of the said heir with his marriage without disparagement, and so from heir to heir, provided that he find a competent sustenance for the heir, maintain the houses, buildings, enclosures and woods and support all charges. By p.s.

Feb. 6. Westminster. Grant to Richard Cryse, esquire, of all his goods and chattels which the escheator of Kent seized because he was lately with the earl of Huntyngdon, deceased, supposing him to be of his company, which he was not. By p.s.

Feb. 6. Westminster. *Inspeximus* and confirmation to Robert Sutton of letters patent under the seal of Ireland dated at Dublin, 8 December, 18 Richard II, granting for life to the said Robert, king's clerk, for his good service from the time of the coronation, all lands in Burton Eston Galwey, co. Meath, sometime of the abbot and convent of Dundreynan in Scotland and forfeited because they adhered to the Scots, not exceeding the value of 7*l.* yearly, provided that he answer for any surplus. By p.s. and for 10*s.* paid in the hanaper.

Feb. 7. Westminster. Grant for life to the king's clerk Henry Stanhurst of the office of second chamberlain of the exchequer of Ireland, with the accustomed fees and wages. By p.s.

[104] Biggs, D. (2006). "Chapter Four Edmund of Langley and the Defense of the Realm, June–July 1399". In Three Armies in Britain. Leiden, The Netherlands: Brill. https://doi.org/10.1163/9789047410034_009. (Subscription required).

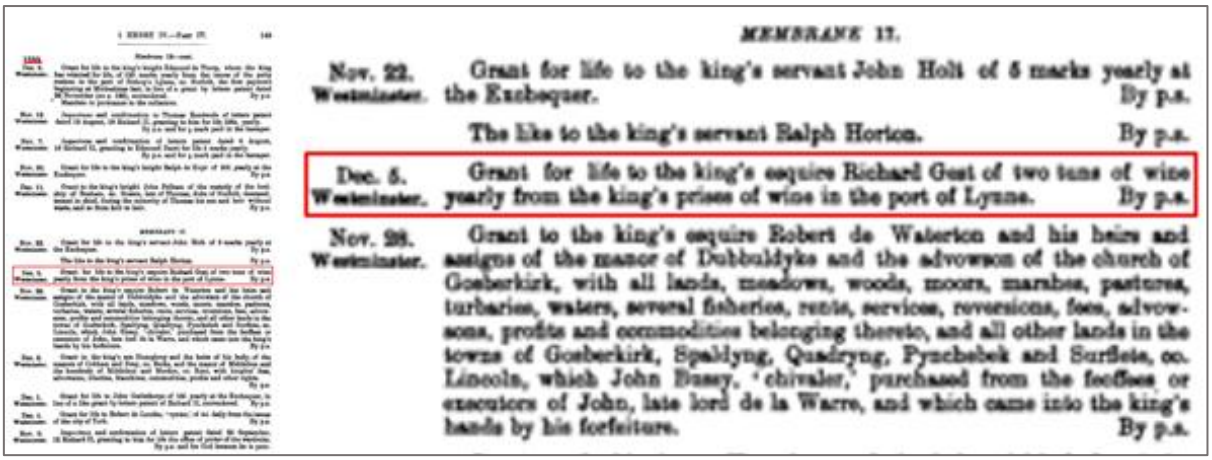
[105] Calendar of the Patent Rolls. Preserved in the Public Record Office: Edward III, 1327-1377. Sir, Henry Churchill Maxwell Lyte (1889, p. 148). Court of Chancery, Great Britain Public Record Office.

[106] Julian/Gregorian Calendars. Manuscripts and Special Collections. University of Nottingham. Online: https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/manuscriptsandspecialcollections/researchguidance/datingdocuments/juliangregorian.aspx.

John Swalowe, if found likely to be one of two partners to a contract for work at Westminster Palace in 1395 (Rymer's Fadera, III., iv, p. rag), was a Gloucestershire mason (Cal. Close Rolls, 1396-1399, pp. 239, 264). [107]

Given the significance of this peerage succession case during its time, is plausible that Richard, was possibly a brother or cousin of Roger or Robert, and too was born in the 1330s. For this scenario to make sense, Richard would have to had left a genealogical legacy, grandchildren, and they would be Thomas and John Gest of King's Norton and placed in Norfolk in 1420/1, second cousin(s).

Attesting to Richard Gest falsely reported death in 1399, rather than in 1400, and making therefore most probable he is the same man as the juror, Richard Gest, further evidence tabled of his non-extinction, as late as 5th December 1399. This is noted when King Henry IV's granted to him on the 5th December 1399, i.e., to the King's esquire, Richard Gest of Colston Norfolk, two tuns of wine Westminster, yearly from the king's prises of wine in the port of Lynne:



MEMBRANE 17.

Nov. 22. Westminster. Grant for life to the king's servant John Holt of 5 marks yearly at the Exchequer. By p.s.

The like to the king's servant Ralph Horton. By p.s.

Dec. 5. Westminster. Grant for life to the king's esquire Richard Gest of two tuns of wine yearly from the king's prises of wine in the port of Lynne. By p.s.

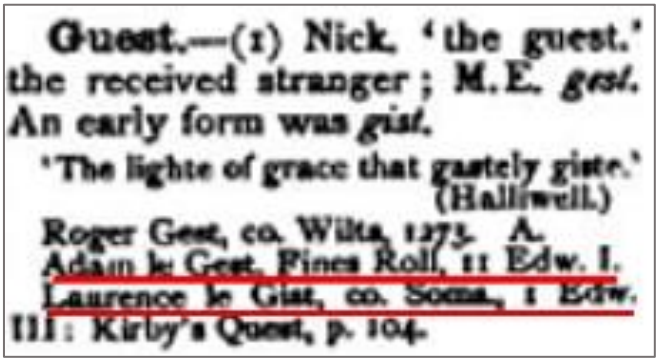
Nov. 28. Westminster. Grant to the king's esquire Robert de Waterton and his heirs and assigns of the manor of Dubbaldyke and the advowson of the church of Goseberkirk, with all lands, meadows, woods, moors, marshes, pastures, turbaries, waters, several fisheries, rents, services, reversions, fees, advowsons, profits and commodities belonging thereto, and all other lands in the towns of Goseberkirk, Spaldyng, Quadryng, Pynchebek and Surflete, co. Lincoln, which John Busey, 'chivaler,' purchased from the feoffees or executors of John, late lord de la Warre, and which came into the king's hands by his forfeiture. By p.s.

Thus, it appropriate to acknowledge Richard Gest of Norfolk, juror in 1400, is not ruled out as a member of the Guest family, featured in this study.

[107] Cited in "The Medieval Mason an Economic History of English Stone Building in the Later Middle Ages and Early Modern Times. Douglas Knoop, M.A., Hon. A.R.I.B.A. Emeritus Professor of Economics in the University of Shefield and G. P. Jones, M.A., Litt.D. Professor of Economics in the University of Shefield, 1933, page 74, footnotes.

Laurence Gest (c. 1300- c. 1360) of Somerset

Roger and Robert Gest, brothers, of Yorkshire, are made scarcity of rare record and equally scare population of males bearing the name Gest of the right generational fit to be the father of Roger and Robert Gest of Yorkshire, is Laurence le Gist (Latin: "Laurentio [de] le Gist") (c. 1300-1360).[108] He is found in the Somerset record cited in Kirby's Quest (p. 104) with the year time stamp being translated from the first year of Edward III's reign, and taken to be the year 1329:


Guest.—(1) Nick. 'the guest.' the received stranger; M.E. *gest*. An early form was *gist*.
'The lighte of grace that gastely giste.' (Halliwell.)
Roger Gest, co. Wilts, 1273. A.
Adam le Gest, Fines Roll, 11 Edw. I.
Laurence le Gist, co. Somm., 1 Edw. III.: Kirby's Quest, p. 104.

At first glance, the evidence may seem weak. However, record's citation cannot be overlooked, especially given the growing body of facts and the lack of any other definitive records concerning the father-son relationship, with none available in all of England that could provide a match, let alone a strong one in terms of genealogical continuity. Additionally, the notable name match to Gest and the familial ties to Somerset involving Thomas and John Gest in 1420/21 suggest a reason for their presence there, as did Laurence.

Furthermore, the fact that John Gest (c. 1470-c. 1537) of King's Norton, of Handsworth Staffordshire, named one of his four sons Laurence reinforces this connection, making the link to Roger and Robert Gest even more plausible.

Adam Gest (1265-1320) of Highley (Lega) Shropshire

Laurence life span overlaps with the next recovered identity, Adam le Gest (c. 1265-1320) found a consummate professional Assessor and Clerk consider a "Master" [109] the 1295 Fines Roll, II Edw. Adam's status as a Master Assessor and Clerk [110] appointed to work alongside Sir Robert Corbert in Gest's home county of Shropshire, and of the right generational link to be Laurence Gest's (c. 1300-c. 1363) father interesting given the general history the Guest family of Row Heath, Northfield, King's Norton, spring from Shropshire and traced back from there to the conquest 1066. The evidence of Adam being in 1296 of a mature age to be considered a master in his profession submitted below: [111]

> *"A Patent of December 4, 1295, appoints Sir Robert Corbet and Master Adam Gest, [2] Clerk, to be Assessors and Collectors of the eleventh and seventh in the County of Salop. The Inquest on Robert Corbet's death sat at Moreton on Sunday, January 15, 1301. The passage about Moreton itself is sadly defaced. It was, with its members, held by knight's-service under John de Chetwynd. John de Wrothe, who had held some parcel of the Manor under Robert Corbet, had enfeoffed the said Robert and his wife Matilda, conjointly, in the said parcel. [3] I do not find that Matilda retained the same till her decease."*

[108] Kirby, J & Dickinson, F. H. (1889, p. 104). Kirby's Quest for Somerset. "DE Laurentio le Gist. Hundred de Northcory, Somerset." By John Kirby, Exchequer, Great Britain, Bishop of Ely and Francis Henry Dickinson.
[109] Eyton, R. W. (1854, p.93). Antiquities of Shropshire. Volume XII.
[110] Etymology, origins and meaning of "Master" used in the 13th Century - The term Master was reserved for the fully qualified, experienced craftsman. Online: https://www.etymonline.com/word/master.
[111] Eyton, R. W. (1860, p188). "Antiquities of Shropshire." Vol. X.

defence about Preston was exactly that which we have seen him offer about Evelith, viz. that it was a member of Moreton Corbet, and so included in the King's Charter.[1] This defence held good for Preston, but not for distant Evelith.

A Patent of December 4, 1295, appoints Sir Robert Corbet and Master Adam Gest,[2] Clerk, to be Assessors and Collectors of the *eleventh* and *seventh* in the County of Salop. The Inquest on Robert Corbet's death sat at Moreton on Sunday, January 15, 1301. The passage about Moreton itself is sadly defaced. It was, with its members, held by knight's-service under John de Chetwynd. John de Wrothe, who had held some parcel of the Manor under Robert Corbet, had enfoffed the said Robert and his wife Matilda, conjointly, in the said parcel.[3] I do not find that Matilda retained the same till her decease. I pass over Thomas Corbet,[4] son and heir of Robert, to—

Robert Corbet (II), son and heir of Thomas. He was born Dec. 25, 1304, and was consequently under 12 years of age when the *Nomina Villarum* of 1316 marks him as Lord of the Vill of Moreton Corbet. In 1326 he was still without the degree of knighthood. His public life was nearly coextensive with the long reign of the third Edward, for he died on Dec. 3, 1375. Pursuant to a Writ of Nov. 26, 1355, an Inquest reported that Robert Corbet's wish to have *view of frank-pledge* in Moreton Corbet would only injure the Crown to the extent of about 3*s.* *per annum*, which was the average amount of amercements incurred at the Sheriff's two *Tourns* by Corbet's men, for breaches of the assize of bread and beer, for bloodshed, *hamsoken*, and forestall.[5]

This Robert Corbet purchased Shawbury from Giles de Erdinton, but without that Royal License which was necessary to the transfer of a tenure *in capite*. On Oct. 30, 1359, he had petitioned the Crown to excuse this act, and to allow him to enfeoff Hugh, Vicar of Shawbury, and William, Parson of Upton, in the same, who, being seized, were to settle the Manor on Robert Corbet, Elizabeth his wife, and their heirs. The matter was referred to an Inquest *ad quod damnum*, which reported the Manor to be held by half a knight's-fee, and to be worth £3. 6*s.* 8*d.* *per annum*, and not more, seeing that it had already, by Royal License, been dismembered of several tenants.[6]

[1] Vide supra, Vol. II. p. 308.
[2] Rector of Idsall (Vol. II. p. 336).
[3] *Inquis.* 29 Edw. I., No. 45.
[4] Supra, Vol. VII., p. 107.
[5] *Inquis.* 29 Edw. III., 2nd Nos., No. 19.
[6] *Inquis.* 33 Edw. III., 2nd Nos., No. 42.

After consideration the likely life span approximation for Adam, a Master of his profession in 1295, and considered also to be of an age to be Laurence Gest's father born circa 1300, suggest a birth year no later than about 1265. Suggesting Laurence Gest (c1300-c. 1365) may be a subsequent son, not the heir and this would give cause for why Laurence is found elsewhere then Shrop, in Somerset, before he made his way as issues to Yorkshire, where Laurence probable sons, Roger and Robert Gest raised and remained.

Thomas Gest (1242-c. 1305) of Highley (Lega) Shropshire

Adam Gest (c. 1265-c. 1320) connects well as the son of Thomas le Gest (c. 1242-c.1305) who matches as the same person Thomas Guest (c.1240-c. 1305) of Lega (Highley) Shropshire known to King's 1874 publication of the Guest family of Lega (Highley) Shropshire.

First Thomas as Thomas le Gest in the 1275 Subsidiary Rolls for Worcestershire is listed and cited by Oxford Dictionary Family Names in Britain and Ireland: [112]

Guest

Variants: Guess

- **Current frequencies:** GB 10159, Ireland 192
- **GB frequency 1881:** 6366
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks and Lancs; Staffs and Worcs
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Tipperary

English: nickname, status name from Middle English *gest* 'guest, stranger'.

Early bearers: Benwoldus Gest, about 1100 in *Tengvik*; Richard le Gest, about 1248 in *Bec Abbey Documents* (Middx); Thomas le Gest, 1275 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); Johannes Gest, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Drighlington, WR Yorks); Robertus le Gest, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Bedford, Lancs); Richard Gest, 1407 in *PROB 11* (Friars Minors, City of London); Ellene Guest, 1560, Mary Guess, 1818 in *IGI* (Chester, Cheshire); Mary Guest, 1612 in *IGI* (Warehorne, Kent); John Guest, 1692 in *IGI* (Thornborough, Bucks); John Guess, 1745, William Guest, 1824 in *IGI* (Bedford, Beds).

Consulting King's 1874 publication,[113] a match between Adam Gest (c. 1265-c1320) the Assessor as the inferred son of Thomas Gest/Guest. Considered from the available evidence with no contrary account of the relationship a very good match is made for confirming the father son duo Adam and Thomas Gest of the place Lega (Highley), Shropshire.

[112] Ibid, Hanks, P., Coates, R., & McLure, P., (2016, p. 1144).

[113] The Norman People and their Existing Descendants (1874, p. 272). Published by H.S. King & co. London.

It is also found in the publication Norman People (1874, p. 272),[114] that Lega/Highley is within 30 kilometres or 20 miles from the Guest manor and lands in King's Norton, Worcestershire and both villages sharing as their next closest major town Dudley Worcestershire:

GRO

ter, held in capite from Hugh Lupus in 1086 (Domesd.). He witnessed the foundation charter of Chester Abbey, and was a benefactor to it (Mon. i. 201). His descendants all bore or, a bend azure, till the 14th cent. Robert le Venur, his son, received from Earl Hugh, t. Rufus, Over Lostock, Cheshire (Ormerod, iii. 82). His son Robert had, c. 1153, a grant of Budworth, with the office of forester or grand-huntsman of Delamere Forest (Ormerod, ii. 115), from Earl Hugh Kevelioc. Robert Grosvenor 1178 witnessed a charter of John, Constable of Chester, for Stanlaw Abbey (Mon. i. 897). Ralph, his son, t. John (Ormerod, iii. 87), was ancestor of the Grosvenors of Cheshire. In the reign of Richard II., Lord Scrope objected to their use of their paternal arms, as his own ancestors had used the same, at which time it was proved that the G.s had borne their arms from the remotest ages; but the influence of Scrope obtained a decision depriving this family of their original arms. The Marquises of Westminster, Earls of Wilton, and Lords Ebury descend from this house.

Groat. *See* GROTE.

Grochy, or Grochy, the French pronunciation of Grochet. Clarus de Grochet, Normandy, 1180 (MRS); Richard Grucet, England, c. 1272 (RH).

Grumell. Peter and Robert de Grumuell held lands at Nogent, Normandy, from Philip-Augustus (Mem. Soc. Ant. Norm. v. 182).

Gubbins, or De Gobion, from Bretagne. Guido Gobio witnessed a charter of Geoffry de Dinan, c. 1070, as one of his knights (Morice,

272

GUI

Hist. Bret. Preuves, i. 439), and William Gobio occurs in a charter of the same date (Ibid.). Hugh Gubiun was of Northants 1130 (Rot. Pip.), and 1165 Richard Gubiun, or Gobio, held fiefs in Bedford and Derby from Beauchamp, and Ferrars Earl of Derby (Lib. Niger). The name was corrupted to Gubbins. Sir Hugh Gobyun of York occurs c. 1300 (PPW).

Gubby. N. Gob, Guislanus Gobe, Normandy, 1180-98 (MRS); Geoffry, Walter, &c., Cobbe, England, c. 1272 (RH).

Gude, for Good.

Gudge. *See* GOODGE.

Gudgen. *See* GUDGEON.

Gudgeon, for Cucon. *See* GOUJON.

Guest. Guest was near Caen, Normandy. This family settled in Salop at the Conquest, and held Lega from the De Dunstanvilles. In 1150 Alan de D. granted the lands of Alric de Lega to Wombridge Priory (Eyton, Salop, ii. 273). Thomas de Lega, his son, occurs 1180 (314); Walter and Leonard, his sons, 1194-1230; Henry, son of Leonard, 1240 (315). Roger de Lega, or Guest, brother of the latter, had Thomas, who gave lands to Wombridge Priory (Eyton, Salop, ii. 313). In 1295 Adam Gest was assessor of parliamentary aids in Salop (PPW). From this Norman race descended Bishop Guest, one of the Reformers, and the eminent manufacturer, Sir John Guest.

Guise, or Gouiz. *See* COIZ. In 1165 Richard de Guiz held five knights' fees in Gloucester from the Earl of Gloucester (Lib. Niger). In 1203 Robert de Gouvis also held five fees of the honour of Gloucester, for

Raised by the Norman People in 1874 as presented above, and with no counter evidence found to dispute his familia reconstruction, the Guest family ascending, for a period beyond Thomas's father, another Roger Guest, born Lega, but reverted to the historical name Guest was the son of one Leonard de Lega/de "De Lega" clearly a geographical patronymic adopted when the land held by the Guest's per se, in Lega (Highley), Shropshire.

[114] There is a strong hint the anonymous author of the reconstituted Guest lineage taken through Lega/Highley/Dunstanvilles and Shrop back to 1066, consulted the works of Mark Anthony Lower and his publications and back matter research 1844 and 1860, with Sussex History corpus circa 1870.

Roger de Lega (Guest) (1210-1268) of Highley (Lega) Shropshire

King's 1874 publication provides further detail making Thomas Guest (c. 1242-c.1305) most interestingly the brother of Henry named in record in 1240 in which King's citation unsaid likely a reference to Henry's baptism record. Making Thomas likely his younger brother of Henry and perhaps born two years later around 1242. This helps to plot Roger's birthyear around 1218.

Leonard de Lega (c. 1185-c. 1240) of Highley (Lega) Shropshire

If we are to consider King's 1874 published research which since then has lacked criticism, for over 150 years, Roger's father Leonard, was born with the adopted surname de Lega around the year 1195. Leonard de Lega (c. 1185-1240), is the brother of first named Walter de Lega (c. 1182-1230) and they are known to records during the period 1194-1230.

Thomas de Lega (c1152-c. 1212) of Highley (Lega) Shropshire

Thomas the father of Walter and Leonard Gest to whom the Guest patriline is traced through his youngest of two known sons, Leonard. Thomas lived from about 1152.

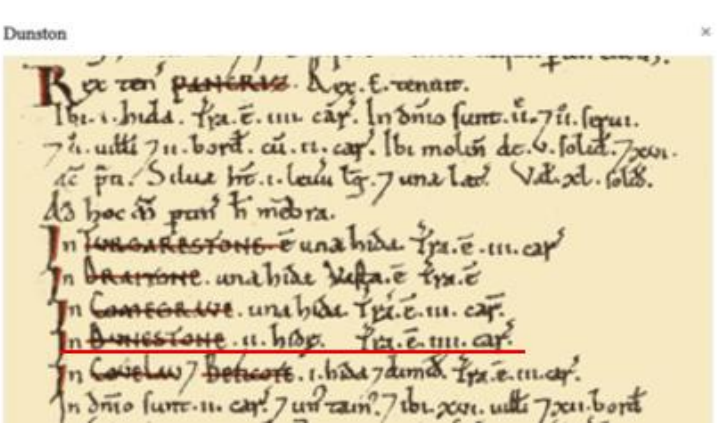
Alan de Lega (c. 1120-c. 1180) of Dunston, South Staffordshire

Thomas's father Alan de Lega (c. 1120-c. 1180), was granted land in Lega now long known as Highley, Shropshire 1150 land from Wembridge Priory. Based on the present trace, from his descent from "Alric" de Lega, Alan dropped an earlier geographical patronymic de Dunstanvilles (de Dunstonvilles). This resulted probably in 1150 upon taking possession of his Lega property.

This understanding informed exclusively by King's research to which there is no other evidence to consult. Learned however, is that there was, and still exists a village of Dunston not far from Lega (Highley) which is in the hundred of Cuttlestone, South Staffordshire.

This village, was noted in Great Domesday Book as Dunstone, and had five households in 1066, placing it among the smallest 20% of settlements documented in Domesday (with the figure an estimate that includes several locations).

It is likely that Alan adopted the surname "de Dunstonvilles" taken to mean "of" the place Dunstonvilles or from this village. The same village was previously held by his ancestor "Alric", as indicated by a historical record captured by the royal commissioner in the 1086 Great Domesday Book. The land granted him in 1150 by the priory may have been held a considerable time:



Dunstone (Dunstonvilles) was historically a part of the ancient of Penkridge. During the Middle Ages, it was included within the manor of Penkridge, which was recognised as a royal manor in the Domesday Book of 1066.[115] [116] [117]

Its close location to Lega, long known as Highley, Shropshire, further supports the of an ancestral connection and the later abandonment of the older patronymic Guest in favour of a geographical name linked to his personal identity, such as Dunstan village in Staffordshire (de Dunstonvilles) and Lega (de Lega) from sometime after 1150 it seems called Leigh or Lee then settling as Highley, Shropshire:

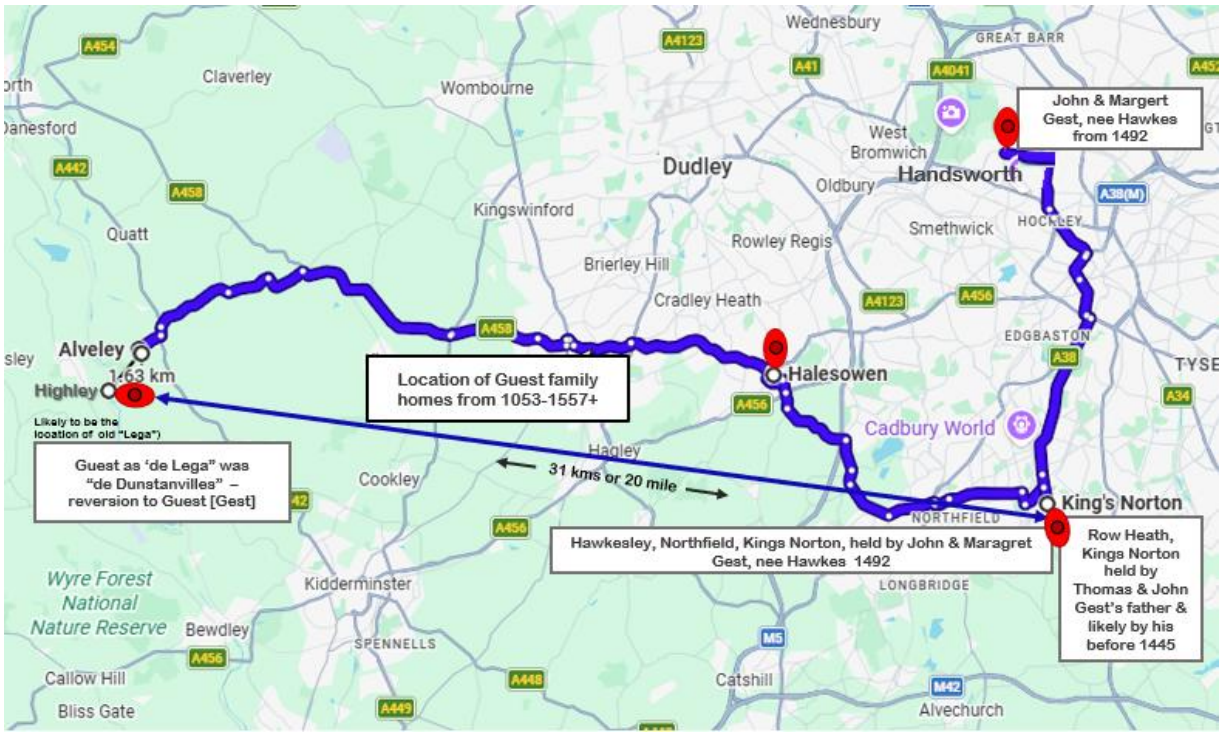
The map above clearly illustrates the close distance between Dunston Staffordshire Wombridge Priory, which granted Alan de Dunstonville lands that his purported ancestor, Alric (Æthelric), once possessed in "Lega." This might explain why opted to abandon the geographic patronymic "de Dunstonvilles" favour of adopting the "de Lega" name, indicating a change in his residence and estate. If the author's reasoning is correct, de Gest, the son Gilbert the Stranger (perhaps Gest), received land and a house in Dunston Stafford from his father Gilbert after acquiring rights to Æthelric former lands in Lega from Wombridge Priory.

[115] V.C.H. Staffs. iv. 38, no. 8.
116 L Margaret Midgley (ed.), (1959). A History of the County of Stafford: Volume 5: East Cuttlestone hundred, chapter 16: Penkridge, Introduction and Manors, s.2 (Victoria County History)
117 A small hamlet in rural South Staffordshire. Shown in Doomsday as the king's manor of Dunstone. Dunston in South Staffordshire. Online: https://www.dunstonstaffs.com/.

Roger Gest (c. 1220-aft. 1275), a direct ancestor, appears to have recognised the patrilineal heritage of his ancestor Saeric (c. 1035-1108). To avoid confusion with others in Lega who adopted the de Lega, he opted to drop "de Lega" and embraced the more ancient family name Guest.

Consequently, Roger's descendants the Guest/Gest name and continued living in a compact geographical area spanning from Highley (Lega) to the east, including Halesowen and King's Norton, the latter just 20 miles east of Highley (Lega). Additionally, King's Norton's northern area, 4 miles or 6 km away, includes Handsworth.

This more recent name change, also helped differentiate them from the unrelated de Lega/Lee families in the nearby villages of Alveley and High (Lega), Shropshire, who also spread out in same area from the 13th to the 16th century:



Based on the continuity of genealogical records there is sufficient evidence to determine the identity of those bearers of the Gest name most likely standing between John Guest of Handsworth born Row Heath, parish of Northfield King's Norton. Worcestershire circa 1470, and taken back to Alan de Lege (Guest) (c. 1120-1180) looming large as a great grandson of Saeric (c. 1035-c. 1108) placed in the same region of midlands England in Great Domesday Book for 1066 and 1086.

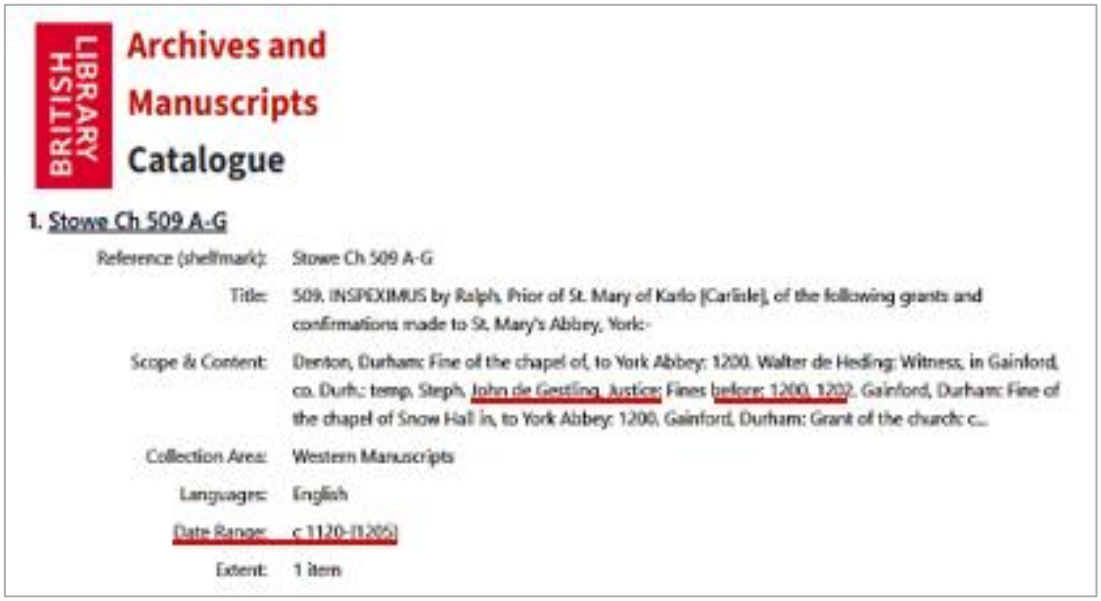
Prima facie Saeric's son Godmund Gest is the father of Gilbert the Stranger, taken to be Gilbert Gest, and known in record by his nick name. He is the older brother of Benwoldus Gest progenitor of the cadet branch is Sussex known from about 1100 until 1330 in that place as Guestling.

In turn Gilbert is prima facie made the father of Alan de Lega (Gest), known in his lifetime also as Alan de Dunstonvilles, and Alan de Lega. It is Alan's great grandson. Roger de Lega who is attributed by King's 1874 publication to have reverted the back to the Guest family name.

Whilst complicated, the records gathered and examined make for a clearer understanding of the Guest patriline beyond Thomas Gest (c. 1398-1468) and his brother John Gest (c. 1400-c. 1463) the Cooper, to Saeric (c. 1035-1108).

The father of Thomas and John, known may have referred to himself as John Gestlyng, a juror for Staffordshire from 1409. He did so perhaps aware that a paternal ancestor, John Gestlyng (c. 1170- c. 1230) had served as a justice for Yorkshire from 1202, in the time of King John, after being consecrated as a justice in 1199.

His legacy as a justice remembered as it seems in the time of John Gest of Staffordshire and King's Norton, Worcestershire in 1209. John Gestlying, the justice active in Yorkshire, lived and served from the reign of King John in 1202 until 1219, presumed when he expired: [118]



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Archives and Manuscripts Catalogue

1. Stowe Ch 509 A-G

Reference (shelfmark):	Stowe Ch 509 A-G
Title:	509. INSPEXIMUS by Ralph, Prior of St. Mary of Karlo [Carlisle], of the following grants and confirmations made to St. Mary's Abbey, York:-
Scope & Content:	Denton, Durham: Fine of the chapel of, to York Abbey: 1200. Walter de Hedlng: Witness, in Gainford, co. Durh.: temp. Steph. John de Gestling, Justice: Fines before: 1200, 1202. Gainford, Durham: Fine of the chapel of Snow Hall in, to York Abbey: 1200. Gainford, Durham: Grant of the church: c...
Collection Area:	Western Manuscripts
Languages:	English
Date Range:	c.1120-[1205]
Extent:	1 item

Evidence of John de Gestling (c. 1155-1219) consecration in 1199 follows. [119]

Laymen of highest rank were not normally to be found at the Bench. Three earl's names appear among the justices, but only one– Roger Bigod, earl of Norfolk– for more than a single term. Two men below the rank of earl, yet influential *curiales*, can be found among the justices a few times: William Marshal, later to

[1] *Roger Howden*, 3: 16; *Gesta Hen. Secundi*, 2: 87.

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win an earldom, and William Briwerre, a *curialis* who would serve on the bench more often in the time of King John. Two less prominent royal servants – Oger fitz Oger and John of Guestling– sat on the bench with some regularity, but not often enough to be counted among the corps of professionals. John of Guestling's chief service as a justice would come in King John's reign, and would continue into the minority of Henry III.

[118] Listing for John de Gestling, Justice: Fines before: 1200, 1202. Reference (shelf mark). Library of Britain, Archives and Manuscripts Catalogue. Stowe Ch 509 A-G. Title: 509. INSPEXIMUS by Ralph, Prior of St. Mary of Karlo [Carlisle], of the following grants and confirmations made to St. Mary's Abbey, York. Scope & Content: [Skip to John Gestling, Justice, 200, 1202. Online: https://searcharchives.bl.uk/?f%5Bcollection_area_ssi%5D%5B%5D=Western+Manuscripts&f%5Bproject_collections_ssim%5D%5B%5D=Stowe+Collection&sort=title_for_sort_si+asc%2C+scope_and_content_for_sort_si+asc%2C+reference_for_sort_si+asc.

[119] Turner, R. V. (1985, pp. 75-76). The English Judiciary in the Age of Glanvill and Bracton, c. 1176-1239. The Florida State University.

John de Gestling was notably active as a justice in York during the first wo decades of the 13th century. He is recorded sitting as a justice at York during King John's reign. He was part of a generation of professional "curial" justices who helped formalise English common law. He worked alongside other notable figures of the era, such as James de Poterne and Richard de Herriard.

He should not be confused with two others of that name in Sussex with overlapping life spans, one a blood relative, a cousin by degree and the other, the former's father-in-law with the adopted name Guestling after his patrilineal ancestors settling in Guestling in 1070 and adopted the place name as their surname form about 1100.

His existence and notoriety within the Guest family may have sustained at least until 1409, when John (Johannes) Gest (c. 1358-c. 14222/3) honoured him be adopting the south east England naming custom after 1100 until the line became extinct about 1330, "Guestling" (of the *Guest-ling*) (of the *Guest family*).

This John Gestlying, a Justice for Yorkshire who lived and served between 1199-1219, deductively appears to have a familial connection to Thomas de Lega (Gest) (c. 1150-c. 1213) and Bertram Gest (c. 1152-c. 1215) the sons of Alan de Lega (Gest) (circa 1110-1170), likely as a brother rather than a first cousin.

Additionally, more likely than not due to the tiny cohort John likely also son of Gilbert Gestlyng (c. 1075- aft. 1108), who is referenced in historical records as Gilbert the "Stranger", known to have held lands in Norfolk and likely also elsewhere such as Yorkshire and Shropshire, and like Norfolk confirmed to be associated with the area of "Gestling hundreds" Sussex.

One must consider now probable, this information regarding direct ancestry was passed down from John Gest, also known as John Gestlyng, a juror from 1409, to his ancestor Giles Gest. In 1543, Giles Gest of Tewkesbury who was able to prove his lineage to granted arms, with subsequent armorial display practically the same as Saeric, Gilbert's grandfather, and the same which was favourably comparable to the posthumous awarding of the same to his father, John Gest (c. 1490-1537) Jr., and his three older brothers, John junior, Richard, and Laurence Gest of Handsworth, Staffordshire, in 1634, and nearby to Shropshire.

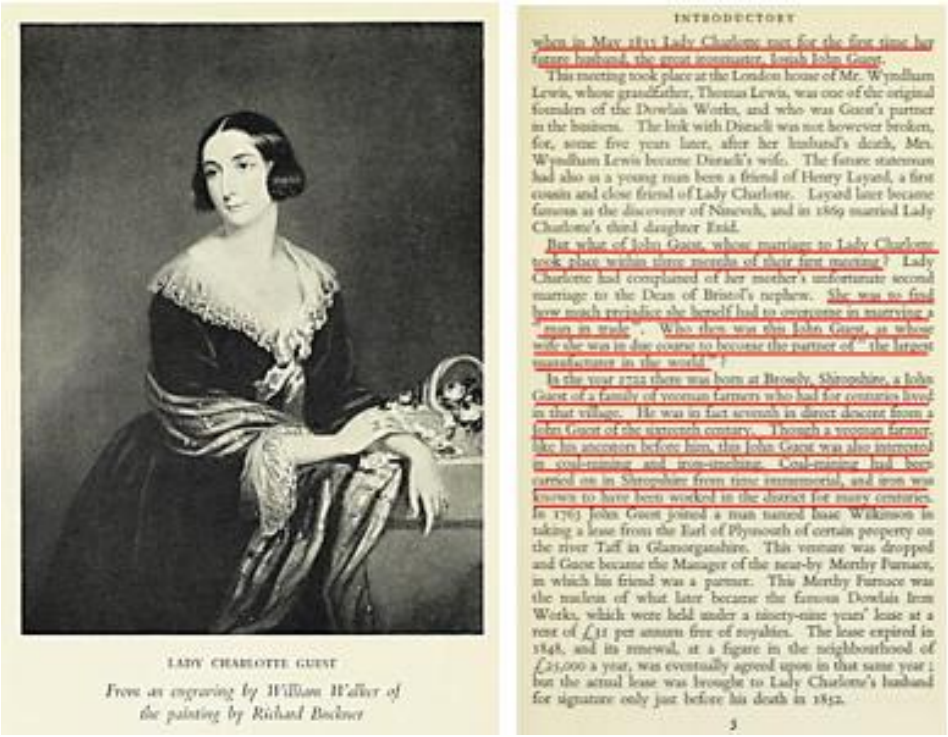
As captured in the extract submitted overleaf, it's from Richard Guest, Senior's son, yet another John Guest, makes for a further reconnection to Lynley Shropshire in 1522. It is he, born circa 1500, likely to be the father of John Guest recorded in 1522 and assumed baptism record,[120] and who later settled his line in Broseley. His offspring, many generations late and still connected to Broseley are better known as the family of Dowlais, Wales. John Guest (c. 1490-c. 1563)'s descendant, Sir John Josiah Guest (1785–1852) a famous industrialist, is the grandson of another John Guest correctly attributed to be the father of the Dowlais Company. It is his grandson however who married Lady Charlotte Elizabeth Guest (1812–1895), nee Bertie, on July 29, 1833 and took the family business to great heights.

In Lady Charlotte's journals,[121] she wrote about the prejudice directed towards her marriage to John Guest because he was considered man of trade and descended from a long line of yeoman farmers from Broseley Shropshire, who had lived in that village since the th century.

[120] Glenmorgan Archives Archifaul Morgannwg - Genealogical notes, Jn. Guest born at Linley, co. Salop, to Sir J.J. Guest (died 1852), 1522; Document reference: DG/M/1/13. Title: Genealogical notes, Jn. Guest born at Linley, co. Salop, to Sir J.J. Guest (died 1852). Level of Description: Item. Date: 1522.

[121] Extracts from Lady Charlotte Guest's Journal for the years 1833-1852. Published in 1950 by John Murray. London. Edited by the Earl of Bessborough. P.C., G.C.M.G. Page 5.

However, Charlotte was most proud that her husband built largest manufacturing business in the world, to which she would eventually become a partner. Her confirmations most valuable of the 16th century placement of this line back in Shropshire in the 16th century:



LADY CHARLOTTE GUEST

From an engraving by William Walker of the painting by Richard Buckner

INTRODUCTORY

when in May 1833 Lady Charlotte met for the first time her future husband, the great ironmaster, Josiah John Guest.

This meeting took place at the London house of Mr. Wyndham Lewis, whose grandfather, Thomas Lewis, was one of the original founders of the Dowlais Works, and who was Guest's partner in the business. The link with Disraeli was not however broken, for, some five years later, after her husband's death, Mrs. Wyndham Lewis became Disraeli's wife. The future statesman had also as a young man been a friend of Henry Layard, a first cousin and close friend of Lady Charlotte. Layard later became famous as the discoverer of Nineveh, and in 1869 married Lady Charlotte's third daughter Enid.

But what of John Guest, whose marriage to Lady Charlotte took place within three months of their first meeting? Lady Charlotte had complained of her mother's unfortunate second marriage to the Dean of Bristol's nephew. She was to find how much prejudice she herself had to overcome in marrying a man in trade. Who then was this John Guest, as whose wife she was in due course to become the partner of "the largest manufacturer in the world"?

In the year 1722 there was born at Broseley, Shropshire, a John Guest of a family of yeoman farmers who had for centuries lived in that village. He was in fact seventh in direct descent from a John Guest of the sixteenth century. Through a yeoman farmer, like his ancestors before him, this John Guest was also interested in coal-mining and iron-smelting. Coal-mining had been carried on in Shropshire from time immemorial, and iron was known to have been worked in the district for many centuries. In 1763 John Guest joined a man named Isaac Wilkinson in taking a lease from the Earl of Plymouth of certain property on the river Taff in Glamorganshire. This venture was dropped and Guest became the Manager of the near-by Merthyr Furnace, in which his friend was a partner. This Merthyr Furnace was the nucleus of what later became the famous Dowlais Iron Works, which were held under a ninety-nine years' lease at a rent of £31 per annum free of royalties. The lease expired in 1848, and its renewal, at a figure in the neighbourhood of £25,000 a year, was eventually agreed upon in that same year; but the actual lease was brought to Lady Charlotte's husband for signature only just before his death in 1852.

3

Whereas, pausing for a moment to focus on the woman, Lady Charlotte Guest (1812–1895), she was, by any standards in any era, an exceptionally formidable and multifaceted individual. She defied the rigid gender norms of the Victorian era to become a pioneering industrialist, renowned scholar, and collector.

Born into aristocracy as Lady Charlotte Bertie, she married ironmaster Sir John Josiah Guest in 1833, and they enjoyed a wonderful marriage and professional partnership in which Charlotte could thrive. When they moved to industrial South Wales, she not only raised ten children but also assumed control of the massive Dowlais Ironworks-at point the largest in the world-following her husband's death in 1852. Attesting also to the Lollard values of the early 16th century held by the Guest family Plausible is passing down to Sir John Guest.

Lady Charlotte was the daughter of Albemarle Bertie, 9th Earl of Lindsey. The marriage was considered a significant social event as it united an aristocratic lady with a wealthy ironmaster. Together, they had ten children-five sons and five daughters. They lived at Dowlais House in Merthyr Tydfil, Wales where Sir John managed the massive Dowlais Iron Company. Founded in 1759, the Dowlais Iron Company in Wales became a 19th-century industrial giant. Following a 1900 merger with Arthur Keen's Patent Nut and Bolt Company and the 1902 acquisition of Nettlefold, it became Guest, Keen and Nettlefold (GKN). Today, GKN operates as a major global automotive and aerospace firm, recently under Melrose Industries.[122] [123] [124]

[122] Science Museum Group Collection, Guest, Keen & Nettlefold Ltd 1759. Engineering Company. British. Industry: aerospace industry; automotive industry. Inception: 9th July 1900. Has Subsidiary: GKN Automotive, GKN Aerospace and GKN Sinter Metals.

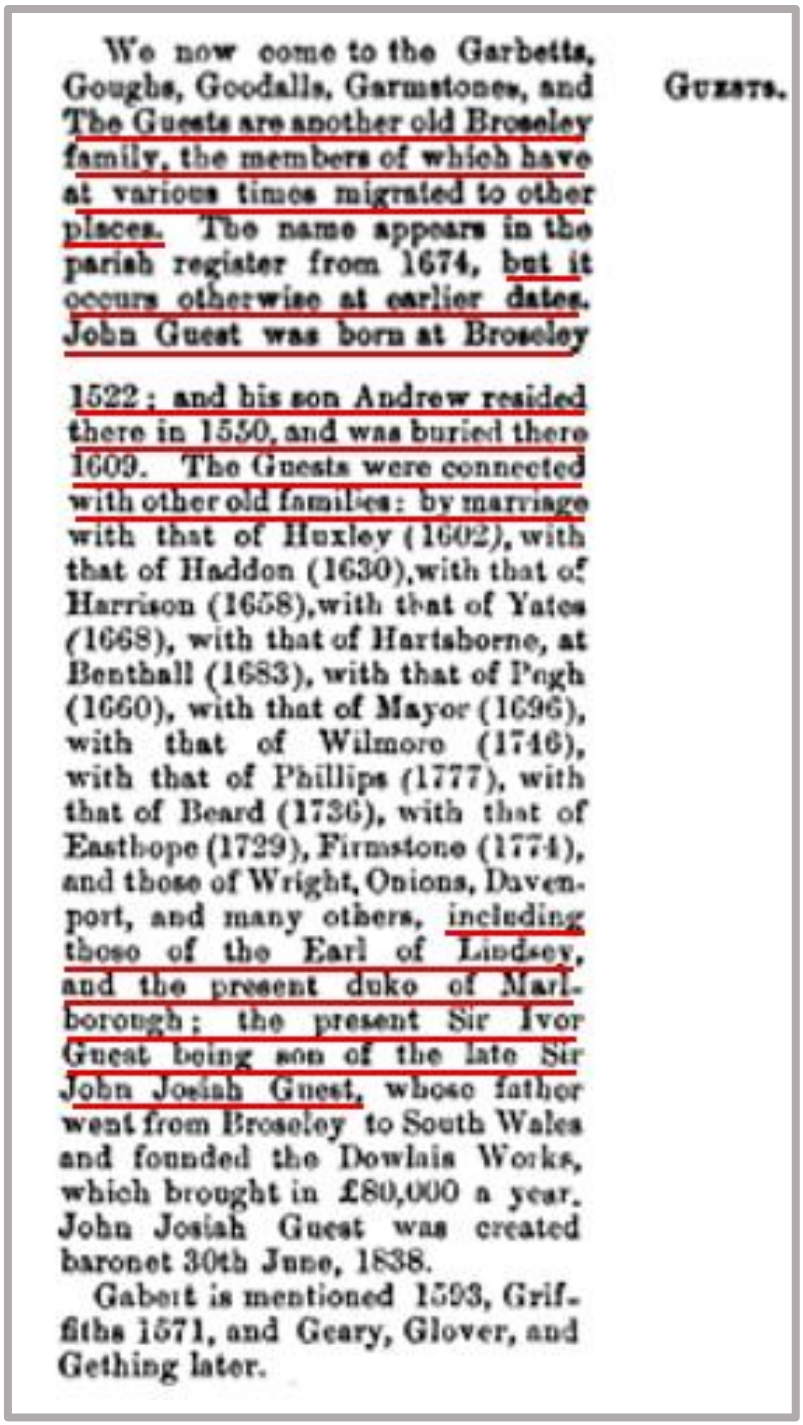
[123] GKN Automotive. Heritage: Founding of the Dowlais Iron Works in Wales, later to become the Guest Company. In 1902, GKN merger creates Guest, Keen & nettle folds Limited, today's GKN. Online: https://www.gknautomotive.com/en/who-we-are/heritage/#:~:text=Founding%20of%20the%20Dowlais%20Iron,Nettlefolds%20Limited%2C%20today's%20GKN%20Automotive.

[124] On Tuesday, February 3, 2026, Dauch Corporation (formerly American Axle & Manufacturing) acquired Dowlais Group plc and its subsidiaries – GKN Automotive and GKN Powder Metallurgy.

Lady Charlotte took an active interest in the business, translating technical documents for her husband and managing the ironworks after his death in 1852.

Her literary work sees Lady Charlotte Guest, best known for her translation of the Mabinogion, a collection of Welsh tales, which she published in 1838–1849 while living in Wales. After Sir John's death in 1852, Lady Charlotte married Charles Schreiber in 1855. The couple resided at both Dowlais and Canford Manor in Dorset.

Evidence of the Guests established in Broseley in 1522 accords with the son of Richard Guest (c. 1478-) setting there around 22 years old to raise his family and where his son John Guest, considered to be Richard's grandson was born: [125]



We now come to the Garbetts, Goughs, Goodalls, Garmstones, and The Guests are another old Broseley family, the members of which have at various times migrated to other places. The name appears in the parish register from 1674, but it occurs otherwise at earlier dates. John Guest was born at Broseley

GUESTS.

1522; and his son Andrew resided there in 1550, and was buried there 1609. The Guests were connected with other old families: by marriage with that of Huxley (1602), with that of Haddon (1630), with that of Harrison (1658), with that of Yates (1668), with that of Hartsborne, at Benthall (1683), with that of Pugh (1660), with that of Mayor (1696), with that of Wilmore (1746), with that of Phillips (1777), with that of Beard (1736), with that of Easthope (1729), Firmstone (1774), and those of Wright, Onions, Davenport, and many others, including those of the Earl of Lindsey, and the present duke of Marlborough; the present Sir Ivor Guest being son of the late Sir John Josiah Guest, whose father went from Broseley to South Wales and founded the Dowlais Works, which brought in £80,000 a year. John Josiah Guest was created baronet 30th June, 1838.

Gabert is mentioned 1593, Griffiths 1671, and Geary, Glover, and Gething later.

[125] Randall, J. (1879, pp. 204-205). Broseley and its Surroundings: A History.

Below is the 1838 Guest arms grant issued to Sir Josiah John Guest,[126] with Provence, azure, three swan necks, charged with three cross moline sable and chevron established to his lineal ancestor, John Guest of Handsworth, Staffordshire, [127] Near Linsley Shropshire, and earlier John's son, Gyles Guest of Tewkesbury, 1543: [128]

GUEST, of Dowlais, co. Glamorgan.
14 Aug. 1838.

Sir JOSIAH-JOHN GUEST, Baronet, so created as above, M.P. for Merthyr-Tidvil, co. Glamorgan; *born* 2 Feb. 1785; *married*, 1st, March 1817, Maria-Elizabeth, da. of William Ranken, (who *d.* without issue, Jan. 1818,) and 2dly, 20 July 1833, Charlotte-Elizabeth, only da. of Albemarle, 9th earl of Lindsey, and sister of George-Augustus-Frederick-Albemarle, 10th and present earl of Lindsey, and has issue,——1. Charlotte-Maria, *b.* 3 July 1834;——2. Ivor-Bertie, *b.* 29 Aug. 1835;——3. Katherine-Gwladys, *b.* 28 Jan. 1837;——4. Thomas-Merthyr, *b.* 18 Jan. 1838.

Arms—See Plate 63. Azure, on a chevron or, between three swans' necks, erased proper, as many crosses sable.
Crest—A swan's neck erased proper, gorged with a collar or, and charged with a cross moline sable, between two ostrich feathers, or.
Seat—Dowlais, co. Glamorgan.

Here is the original Guest arms shown in illustration, featuring Sir Josiah John Guest's variant[129] grant from1838, which is distinguished by the addition of a swan neck and cross outside the shield as an apex feature:

GUEST.

[126] Courthope W. Esq. (Ed) (1839, p.476). This Debrett's Baronage of England. 7th Edition.
[127] Sir William Dugdlae 1634, College of Arms in Henry Geest [Guest] Dugdale 1840, p.13.
[128] Gyles Guest, 1543 original Guest arms grant. Harl. MS. 1543, fo. 83b. (Refer Book 1).
[129] Courthope W. Esq. (Ed) (1839, p.63).

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PART 3 – GUESTS OF MIDLAND & ALSO SOUTHERN ENGLAND

Gilbert "the Stranger" (c. 1070-aft. 1108), recorded in Norfolk and later in Guestling, Sussex, likely son of Godmund/Guthmund also from the Midlands. Gilbert is believed to be the elder brother of Benwoldus Gest (circa 1072-after 1141) and held a higher status in Sussex, indicating he was likely the first born and heir of Godmund.

Gilbert is also thought to be the first grandson of Saeric 2 of the Great Domesday Book and one of the first in the be given a Norman name, while Godmund/Guthmund also tied Saeric in GDB, and as a son, was given a traditional Anglo-Saxon name. The same can be said also for, Benwoldus, his other son and brother perhaps of Gilbert the Stranger.

Their grandfather per se, Saeric, considered further by reconstituted genealogical ties in an upstream direction is more likely than not the son of Sibnbi, grandson of Siward of Chilham, and great Granson of Siward Grossus (Siward the Fat/Siward the Old) who held lands in the Midlands, including Shropshire, granted to him by Edward the Confessor around 1053.

If we considered Dr Ann William (1995, p. 91) reconstruction genealogical table for Siward the Old to be valuable in reconstituting Saeric’s ancestry, Siward the Old as Siward Grossus, was alive until 1075, and cousin by degree to the Confessor.

These lands held by Siward Grossus on the borderland of borderlands between Shropshire and Herefordshire with shifting boundaries often combined by historians to be *Shropshire and Herefordshire,* were near same location Saeric’s, “Shrop” lands and likely given to Siward or reclaimed for Siward by the Confessor because Eadric Streona, Earl of Mercia was Siward maternal grandfather. He having been forfeited when Cnut executed him in 1017, suggesting a gradual migration of the Gest family from southeast Sussex to the Midlands, influenced by their deep-rooted to the region rather than a single event in 1053.

Saeric (c. 1035-1108) is listed in the Great Domesday Book as overseeing land as a sub-tenant while his grandfather Siward, and granduncle Ealdred (c. 992-1069), Archbishop of Canterbury, re-established the family's identity in the Midlands from the earlier time of Siward and Ealdred's grandfather, Eadric of Streona, and Æthelric, Eadric's father. Through their shared offspring Siward's grandson Saeric continued the genealogical legacy in the region, from which the extant descendants enjoy the patriline.

Saeric’s grandson, Gilbert styled in Sussex in record as “the Stranger" is now thought to represent the return of Saeric grandson to Sussex. Saeric (c. 1035-8) left his birthplace in Guestling, Sussex, around 1053 to establish the family England's midlands. The name "Stranger" implies that Gilbert did not permanently settle at the ancestral home in Guestling after 1108, choosing instead to split his time between Guestling and the midlands, where he had interests and where his descendants resided.

Historical records indicate that in Norfolk, 'the Stranger' Gest was raised by his father, Godmund/Guthmund, who the son of Saeric (circa 5-1108). Additionally, a mention of another "Gilbert de Geyste" (Gest), also known as “the Stranger”, in 13th-century records from Nottinghamshire. He is likely to be lineally connected to Gilbert Gest (The Stranger), the father of Bertram - who also has a Norman first name - and the grandson of Godmund Guest (circa 1052-) and great-grandson of Saeric (circa 1033-1108). Except for Gilbert Gestling of the 13th century, all are almost certainly lineally related, including John Gest of Handsworth, Staffordshire, born around 1470, and his youngest son Giles Gest (c. 1498-1557), who lived in nearby Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, close to the Worcestershire border, both of whom descend from Saeric.

Bertram Gest, son of Gilbert Gest "the Stranger" is considered to be familia to the place Lega, in Shropshire where Gilbert's grandfather Saeric is also tied through his great grandfather Siward Grossus (Siward the Fat/Siward the Old).[130] [131] [132] [133] Siward granted was granted land there along with his brother it seems Eadred by Edward the Confessor around 1053.

Gilbert the Stranger (c 1078-) and his one of his two sons Bertram, likely brother of the other, Alan de Lega, were both mobile individuals who lived as adults in Guestling hundreds, Sussex, and possibly originated from Lega, Shropshire, where they may have been and raised. This notion is further supported by the Great Domesday Book records for Saeric's son, Godmund who was also from the Midlands in England and linked to Lega in Shropshire.

It is inferred that Siward and his brother Ealdred, to whom Saeric and Godmund near certain descend, were beneficiaries of a smaller land or manor holding in Shropshire, presumed to be the old village of Lega, which is now known as Highley.

This parcel of real estate was to Gilbert and then to his elder grandson, Thomas Guest, the son of Alan de Gest, who was also known as Alan de Lega, as some family members adopted the geographical name from their manor in Lega, temporarily dropping the Guest surname.

His younger brother, Bertram Gest, also referred to as Bertram de Gestling, lived in Gestling, Sussex, and was at some point called Bertram de Hershorne from Derbyshire, where he likely owned property. The legacy of the Guest family, identified as "Lega" de Lega, has been documented since 1874 in the publication "The Norman and Their Existing Descendants in the British Dominion and the United States" by H.S King & Company.

This book, along with more contemporary genealogical research, suggests that the Guest surname may be an ancient post-conquest English name originating from Caen, Normandy, around the time of the 1066 conquest, although this assertion only be partially accurate, it may have been derived from a paternal ancestor much earlier in a pre-945, migration to south east England, and an earlier spouse of Gest (Guest), their lineal ancestor female, a likely native Anglo-Saxon English given preference for first name conventions training into post-conquest 1066 era.

The current research highlights the books' exploration of Æthelric, Eadric's father, is likely direct descendants in Lega, Shropshire who adopted either the surnames Guest (Gest) or Lega in the 12th century. Initially viewed by the researcher as mere speculation-based on pre-2025/6 investigations of the Guest family, which showed no known patrilineal connection to Æthelric- this notion was dismissed following King's 1874 publication.

The unexpected discovery in 2025/6 of Saeric (c. 1035-1108), a direct descendant of Eadric Streona, son of Æthelric, was traced back through a genealogical table by Dr. Ann Williams in 1995, and it transformed everything.

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[130] Siward Grossus as Siward the Fat and Siward the Old (GDB) is often mis-identified with Siward the Barn or Earl Siward. The present author's own genealogical reconstitutions and articulation of Saeric's lineage make him connected to Siward Grossus.

[131] Dr Ann Williams (c.f., 1995, p. 91; c.f., 1999, pp. 61-62) makes for Siward Grossus / Siward the Fat / Siward the Old as an individual is distinct from the Earl Siward. As noted by Orderic Vitalis, Siward Grossus was a Shropshire thegn and kinsman of King Edward the Confessor, instrumental in the early foundation of Shrewsbury Abbey. His nickname "Grossus" (and "digri" in Old Norse) means "the stout".

[132] Earl Siward (Siward, Earl of Northumbria) **is** historically remembered as massive, powerful Danish earl of Northumbria who invaded Scotland in 1054 to defeat Macbeth. He died in 1055, years before Domesday.

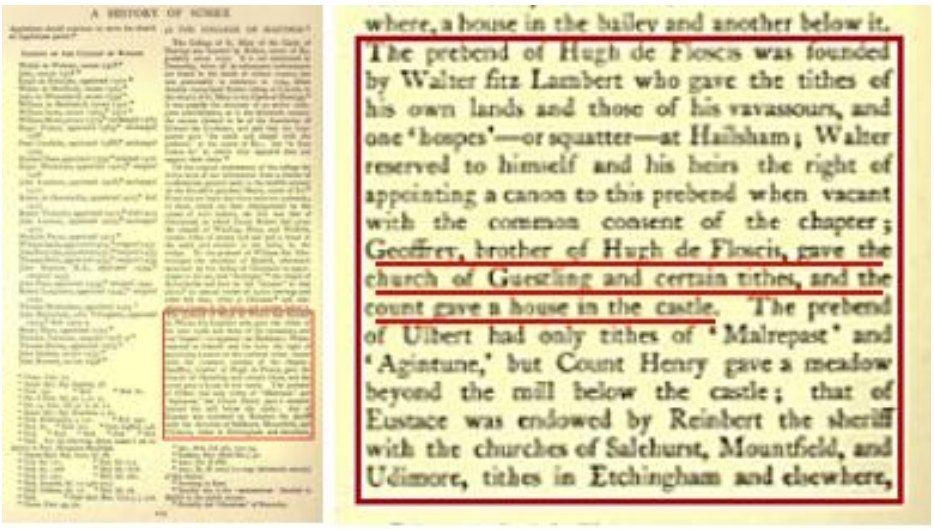
[133] Siward Barn was also a prominent Anglo-Saxon landowner in Warwickshire and Gloucestershire who led the 1069 rebellion against William the Conqueror and was exiled. Nineteenth-century historians like Edward Augustus Freeman conflated him with Siward the Fat, but modern historians have definitively separated them (refer Dr Ann Williams and Margaret Chibnall, et al).

Recent consultation of Barbara Guess's research indicates the early English roots of the Guest family can be traced back to Æthelric and the village of Lega (Highley) in Shropshire around the time of the 1066 conquest. evidence has emerged to challenge the connection to Gilbert "the Stanger" Gest, who known in the hundred and village of Gestling, Sussex around 1058. His grandson, Bertram Gest, also returned to the historical family seat in Gestling, Sussex, several decades later, closely linked to de Gest (de Laga) of Laga Manor, Shropshire.

The collection of loosely connected records suggests a family unit, particularly the limited number of Gest males residing in England during that period. This includes mentions of Gilbert "Stranger" and his link to Gilbert Geyste of Norfolk in later generations. Furthermore, there is a small group of males with the Gest surname concentrated regions such as Shropshire, Worcestershire, Nottingham, Norfolk, and previously in England.

Notably, places like Gestling in southeast Sussex, Canterbury/Rochester in Kent, and Dover in South Kent have the highest concentration of males with the Guest surname and its various spelling variations, often altered by administrators who misheard the name. The spelling includes the variations Guestling and Gestling, which in Anglo-Saxon terms refer to the "Guest family." This name was adopted by the Guest/Gest Anglo Saxon family of Gestling following the 1066 conquest by a cadet branch related to Gilbert the Stranger, brother, Benwoldus Gest (c. 1078-aft. 1141), who was based in Sussex, and adopted the name around 1141.

The situation is further complicated by the Norman family Felicis:



where, a house in the bailey and another below it.
The prebend of Hugh de Floscis was founded by Walter fitz Lambert who gave the tithes of his own lands and those of his vavassours, and one 'hospes'—or squatter—at Hailsham; Walter reserved to himself and his heirs the right of appointing a canon to this prebend when vacant with the common consent of the chapter; Geoffrey, brother of Hugh de Floscis, gave the church of Guestling and certain tithes, and the count gave a house in the castle. The prebend of Ulbert had only tithes of 'Malrepast' and 'Agintune,' but Count Henry gave a meadow beyond the mill below the castle; that of Eustace was endowed by Reinbert the sheriff with the churches of Salehurst, Mountfield, and Udimore, tithes in Etchingham and elsewhere,

Cannon Hugh Felicis, who settled in Gestling in 1070, and his presumed unnamed, who adopted the patronymics around 1100, are identified. Records will reveal two families: first, the Anglo-Saxon Guest family, specifically Saeric's lineage from Gestling, Sussex; and second, the Norman Guest family from the same area, which was prominent between 1070 and 1330. This includes the misidentified family Guest, all of whom are patrilineal descendants of Cannon Hugh de Flocques, brother of Goeffrey, who came to the village of Gestling in 1070 at the invitation of William I.

A careful examination of both family lines reveals that these two seemingly unrelated Guest families, one of Anglo-Saxon/Danish heritage (Saeric family) and the other of Norman descent (Cannon Hugh's family), converged around the turn of the 13th century, possibly as early 1190. This connection occurred when Benwoldus Gest, a descendant of Saeric's younger grandson (c. 1078-aft 1141), married Isabel de Gestling, a descendant of Cannon Hugh de Flocques. Isabel's ancestors adopted the Gestling surname because they lived in and invested time and property in that area.

The Guest family line reconstituted and descending from Saeric ’s grandson, Benwoldus, head of what otherwise was a cadet branch, with Gilbert’s Aland de Lega considered senior and surviving, appears to have become extinct around 1310. As did an associated patronymic line taken through from Hugh de Flocques come de Gestling when John and Isabel’s grandson, the Roman Catholic priest Philip de Gestling (c.1245-c. 1330) died unmarried and without issue.

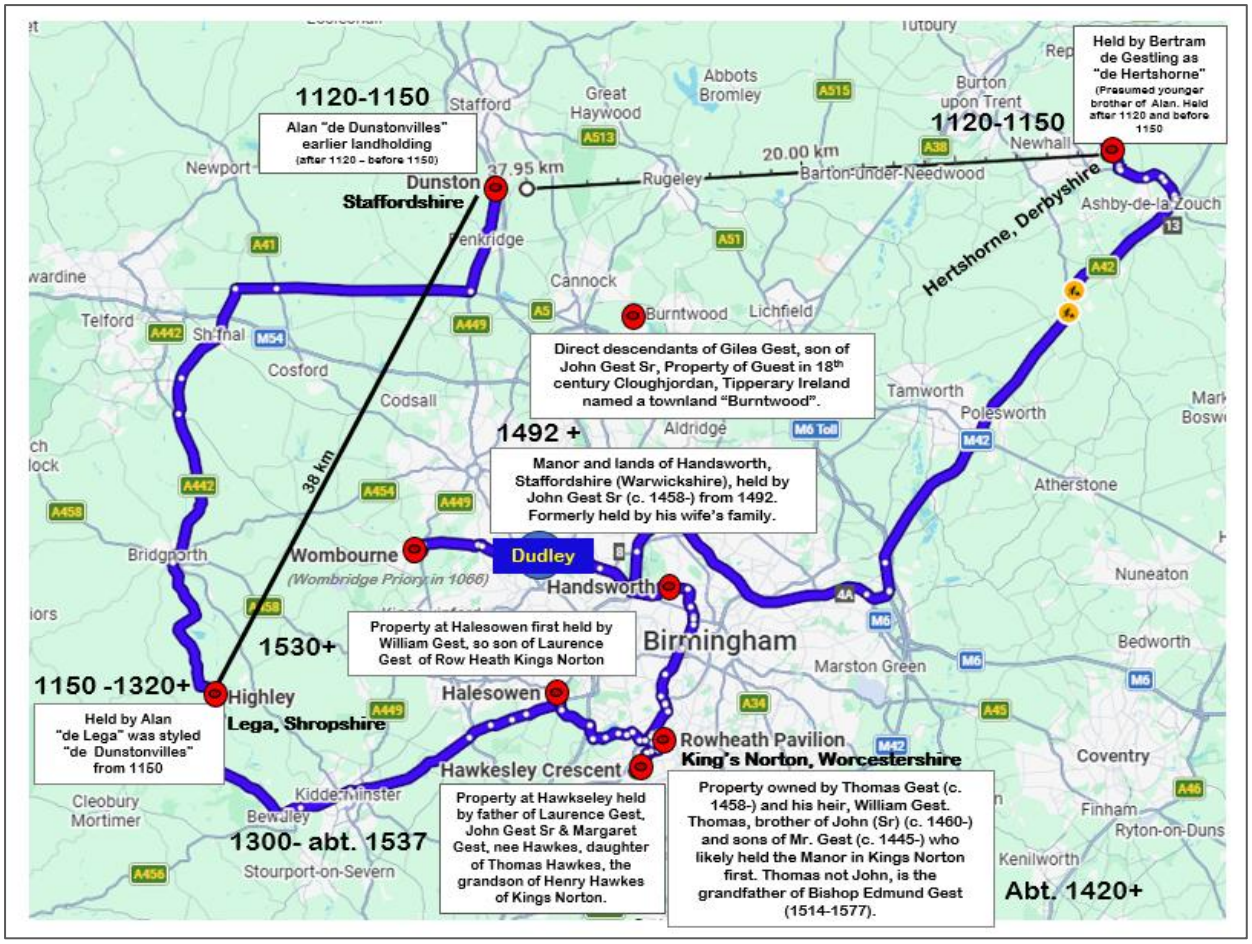
The senior branch of Saeric who probably expired in 1108, left his legacy it seems now through Benwoldus elder brother, Gilbert “the Stranger” (c. 1075-) extant. And through his reconstituted son, Alan who first took the geographical name de Dunstonvilles - then de Lega (geographical patronymics) – makes for the most plausible lineal continuity to be recovered from existing the literature found as later as 2026.

The uncommon family name "Gestling," linked to Sussex, derives from the equally rare Gest patronymic, with the suffix "ling" indicating a family connection. Additional evidence connects members of this family to the senior branch of the Gestling family, which once governed the village and hundreds of "Gestling" in Midlands, tracing its roots back to the late Anglo-Saxon period. Historical records associate Bertram "Gestling" with the alias Bertram de Hershorne from Derbyshire, situated to the north and east of Dudley, Birmingham, and close to High in Shropshire.

This relationship establishes a connection between the Guest family in southeast England and Midlands to their earlier ancestor Æthelric, including his son Eadric Streona and grandson Siward further linking to Saeric (c. 1035-1108), father of Gilbert and his brother Benwoldus Gest, suggesting that Alan de Gest and Bertram de Gestling are sons of Gilbert, rather than Benwoldus. Alan de Gest (de Lega) lived in Dunston, Staffordshire, and was initially known as Alan de Dunstonvilles before adopting the surname "de Lega" after receiving lands in Lega (Highley) from Wombridge Priory in 1150, which were previously held by his ancestor Æthelric.

Despite moving Dunston, Staffordshire in 1150, Alan remained near his brother Bertram Guestling's estate in Derbyshire, where his brother was known as Bertram Hertshorne and may still have held land in Hertshorne, Derbyshire. It is King's publication in 1874, checked and unable to be disputed, which determined that Roger de Lega (c. 1220-aft 1275) returned the family to its name Gest (Guest), whereby King styled his lineal ancestor, Alan de Lega of Lega, Shropshire, and a descendant of Æthelric.

Overleaf, presented is a detailed map marking areas surrounding the city of Dudley, Staffordshire, where the Gest family can be traced through interconnected records for over 450 years, starting around 1120 and extending beyond the study period of 1577.



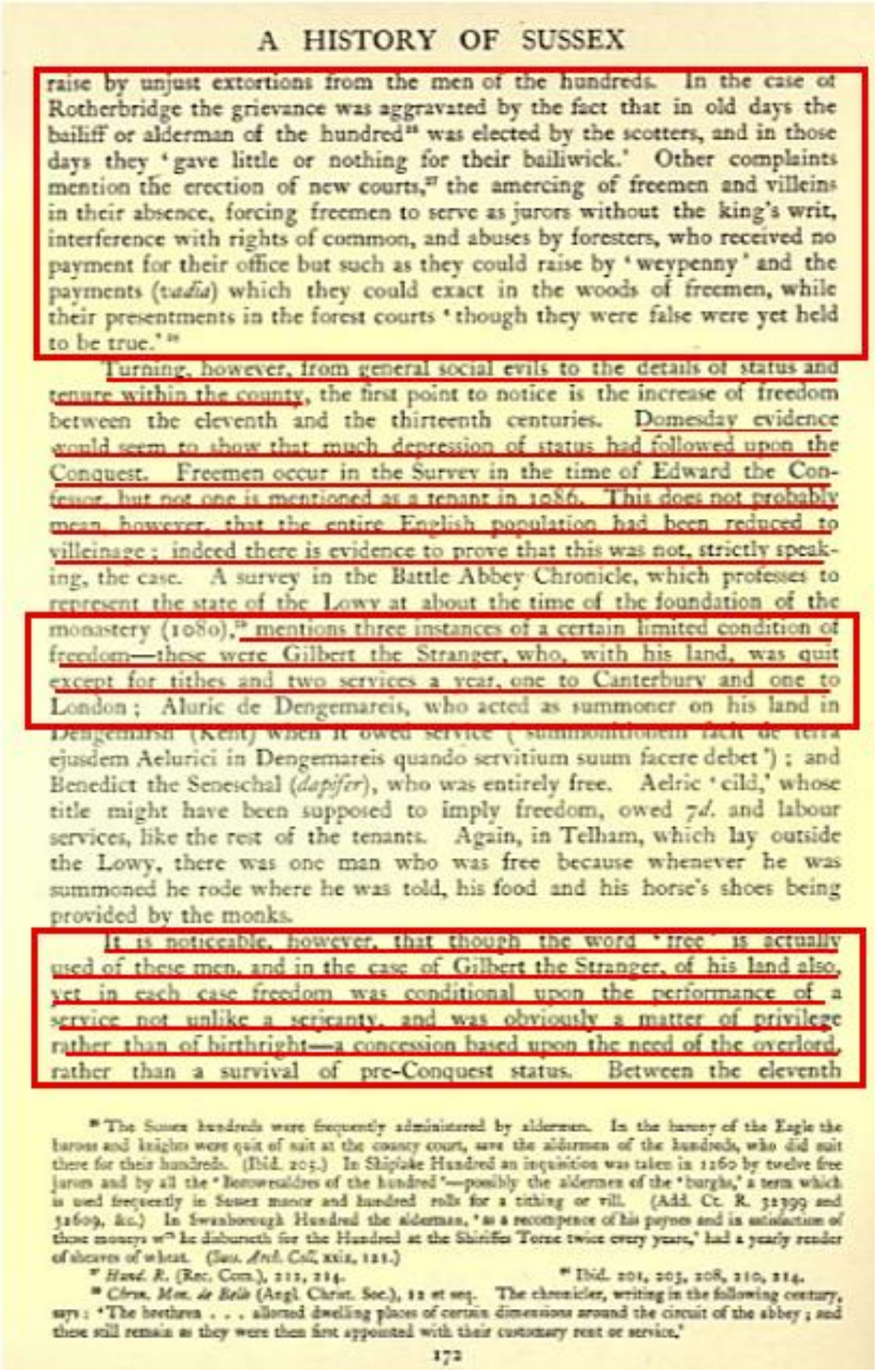
The personal names Bertram[134] and Gilbert,[135] share the ancient Germanic (Teutonic)[136] root berht or beraht, with "Bert"[137] serving as common diminutive for both "Bert-ram" and "Gil-Bert," often used by families for both names, frequently simply calling the family member "Bert."

Gilbert Gest, known as the "Stranger" (c. 1075-abt. 1130), likely earned this name returning to his family's ancient estate in Gestling, Sussex around 1108. It is reasonable to believe he is the grandson of Saeric, as the only alternative would be his lineage from Saeric's brother, Sigeraed Gest (c. 1033-aft.1086). This theory is challenged by the fact that Sigeraed is recorded to have had only one son, Canon Doering.

Additionally, "Gilbert the Stranger" served as a Serjeant of the King and owned lands Gestling, Sussex, which strengthens his connection to Saeric, a recognised Royal thegn and serjeant under William I likely explaining his role as a local administrator and diplomat for the Crown as well as his return to Sussex following Saeric's death. To verify or refute these hypotheses, the Victoria History the County of Sussex, "A History of Sussex" page 172, edited by William Page and Louise Francis Salzmann and published in 1907, was referenced and the hypothesis confirmed.

[134] Loughead, F. H (1934). Dictionary of Given Names: With their Origins and Meanings. "Bertram" p. 44).
[135] Ibid, Loughead, F. H (1934, p. 84)." Gilbert".
[136] "Teutonic" refers to the ancient Germanic tribe (the Teutons) that inhabited Jutland, but is commonly used to describe Germanic people, languages, or cultures, particularly in German, Dutch, and Scandinavian contexts.
[137] Ibid, Loughead, F. H (1934, p. 44). "Bert".

The relevant page with this research is submitted below: [138]



A HISTORY OF SUSSEX

raise by unjust extortions from the men of the hundreds. In the case of Rotherbridge the grievance was aggravated by the fact that in old days the bailiff or alderman of the hundred[26] was elected by the scotters, and in those days they 'gave little or nothing for their bailiwick.' Other complaints mention the erection of new courts,[27] the amercing of freemen and villeins in their absence, forcing freemen to serve as jurors without the king's writ, interference with rights of common, and abuses by foresters, who received no payment for their office but such as they could raise by 'weypenny' and the payments (*tadia*) which they could exact in the woods of freemen, while their presentments in the forest courts 'though they were false were yet held to be true.'[28]

Turning, however, from general social evils to the details of status and tenure within the county, the first point to notice is the increase of freedom between the eleventh and the thirteenth centuries. Domesday evidence would seem to show that much depression of status had followed upon the Conquest. Freemen occur in the Survey in the time of Edward the Confessor, but not one is mentioned as a tenant in 1086. This does not probably mean, however, that the entire English population had been reduced to villeinage; indeed there is evidence to prove that this was not, strictly speaking, the case. A survey in the Battle Abbey Chronicle, which professes to represent the state of the Lowy at about the time of the foundation of the monastery (1080),[29] mentions three instances of a certain limited condition of freedom—these were Gilbert the Stranger, who, with his land, was quit except for tithes and two services a year, one to Canterbury and one to London; Aluric de Dengemareis, who acted as summoner on his land in Dengemarsh (Kent) when it owed service ('summonitionem facit de terra ejusdem Aelurici in Dengemareis quando servitium suum facere debet'); and Benedict the Seneschal (*dapifer*), who was entirely free. Aelric 'cild,' whose title might have been supposed to imply freedom, owed 7*d.* and labour services, like the rest of the tenants. Again, in Telham, which lay outside the Lowy, there was one man who was free because whenever he was summoned he rode where he was told, his food and his horse's shoes being provided by the monks.

It is noticeable, however, that though the word 'free' is actually used of these men, and in the case of Gilbert the Stranger, of his land also, yet in each case freedom was conditional upon the performance of a service not unlike a serjeanty, and was obviously a matter of privilege rather than of birthright—a concession based upon the need of the overlord, rather than a survival of pre-Conquest status. Between the eleventh

[26] The Sussex hundreds were frequently administered by aldermen. In the barony of the Eagle the barons and knights were quit of suit at the county court, save the aldermen of the hundreds, who did suit there for their hundreds. (Ibid. 205.) In Shiplake Hundred an inquisition was taken in 1260 by twelve free jurors and by all the 'Borowesaldres of the hundred'—possibly the aldermen of the 'burghs,' a term which is used frequently in Sussex manor and hundred rolls for a tithing or vill. (Add. Ch. R. 32399 and 32609, &c.) In Swanborough Hundred the alderman, 'as a recompence of his paynes and in satisfaction of those moneys w^ch he disbursseth for the Hundred at the Shiriffes Torne twice every yeare,' had a yearly render of sheaves of wheat. (*Sus. Arch. Coll.* xxix, 121.)

[27] *Hund. R.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 214. [28] Ibid. 201, 203, 208, 210, 214.

[29] *Chron. Mon. de Bello* (Angl. Christ. Soc.), 12 et seq. The chronicler, writing in the following century, says: 'The brethren . . . allotted dwelling places of certain dimensions around the circuit of the abbey; and these still remain as they were then first appointed with their customary rent or service.'

172

[138] Ibid, Page, W. & Salzmann, L.F. (1907, p172). "A History of Sussex." Victoria County History (VCH) [of Sussex].

Gilbert "the Stranger" is believed to have been born around 1075 as the son of Godmund Gest, is thought to have lived in his adopted homeland in the of England until he reached adulthood. He may have visited the ancient family seat in Guestling but ultimately became the heir presumptive for the Gest family (Gestling) and established his adult life in Sussex. There, he served as a Sergeant (local Crown administrator/diplomat) and received the rights from his grandfather and father manage their lands in the hundred of Guestling and surrounding areas.

His younger brother, Benwoldus Gest (1078 - after 1141), also stayed in Sussex, while Gilbert likely returned or split his time in Midlands after their grandfather Saeric passed away in 1108. Although is known about his marriage, it is inferred through the analysis of Gest patriline and successive Guest arms grants from the 16 and 17th centuries that he chose to raise his children in the Midlands instead of Gestling, Sussex. This area is now known for significant flooding, which led to economic difficulties, making Guestling, Sussex, less appealing than his property in the west Midlands.

Gilbert de Gestling, referred to as "Gilbert the Stranger," became the most senior male of Gest family following the death of his ancestors. He probably kept connections with the Guestling community until his passing, while his brother, Benwoldus Gest, lived a modest in Sussex and is the ancestor of the Gust/Gest (Guestling) family line known in Sussex, which became extinct around 1330.

The last member of this cadet branch was Philip de Gest, the Rector of Gestling, who died unmarried and childless as a Roman Catholic priest. Under unusual circumstances, the unrelated Gestling family from the same area rose to power. After long and strained social and political relationship, they united through marriage, leading Rector Philip Gestling (c. 1245-abt. 1315) to restore the Saxon Gest family's control their pre-conquest Manor of Guestling, as noted in the GDB and other records.

Gilbert de Gestling, known as "Gilbert the Stranger," became the senior male of the Gest family after the death of his ancestors. He likely maintained ties with Guestling community until his death, while his brother, Benwoldus Gest, led a modest life in Sussex and is the forebear of the Guest/Gest (Guest) family line, which became extinct around 1330.

The final member of this cadet branch headed by Benwoldus Get, was Philip de Gestling, the Rector of Gestling, who passed unmarried and childless as a Roman Catholic priest. Interestingly, an unrelated Gestling family from the same area gained prominence and after a long and complicated social and political relationship, they united through marriage.

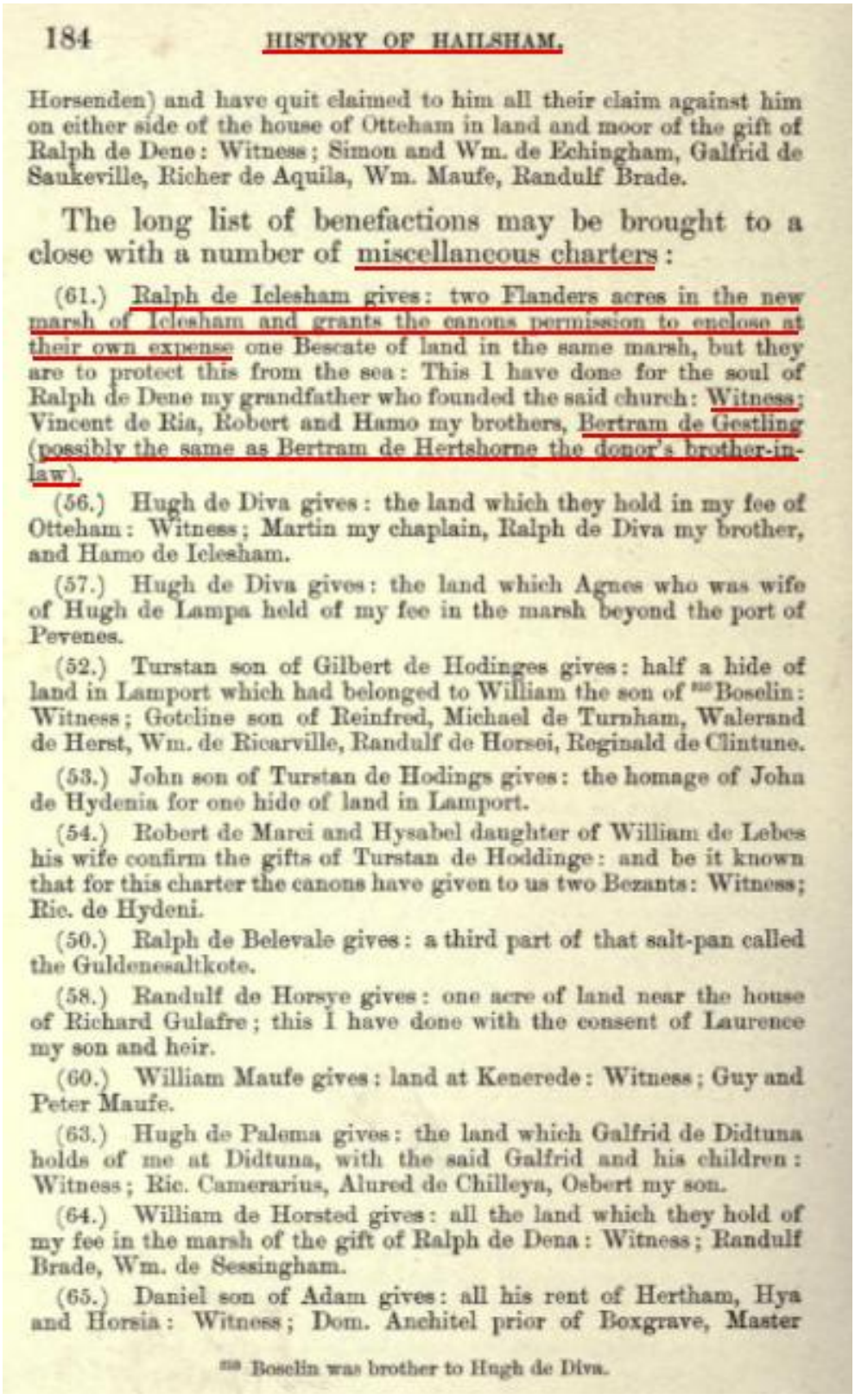
This led Rector Philip Gestling (c. 1244-. 1315) to reclaim control of the Anglo-Saxon Gest family's pre-conquest Manor of Guestling, as documented in the GDB and other records. This situation is ironic, his lineage ties to the Norman "de Flocques" family, which was granted the Gestling Manor by William I in 1070 along with the Guest's Churchland property adjacent to the Norman stone church of St. Laurence, Gestling, built in 1070. The property also included the old Saxon and canon houses managed by the Gest family, located within the remnants of the Old Saxon Castle in Hastings, in the hundred of Gestling. By 1100, the De Flocques family, represented by Canon Geoffrey de Flocques, adopted the patronymic Gest (ling), feeling sufficiently connected to the village of Gestling to claim that name.

The research by Page & Salzman (1907, p. 112) aids in clarifying the confusion surrounding Geoffrey and his brother's experience in obtaining the Anglo-Saxon Gest's Churchlands and other property including their Manor of Gestling from the Conqueror as William I.[139]

[139] Ibid, Page, W & Salzman, L. F. (1907, p. 112).

Bertram de Gestling (c. 1140-aft 1205) grandson of Gilbert "the Stranger"

In the early years Henry II's reign, starting in 1216, Bertram de Gestling was already an adult. He is as a witness for the nearby parish of Hailsham, located in the town that serves as the center of the Wealden district in East Sussex, England: [140] [141]



184 HISTORY OF HAILSHAM.

Horsenden) and have quit claimed to him all their claim against him on either side of the house of Otteham in land and moor of the gift of Ralph de Dene: Witness; Simon and Wm. de Echingham, Galfrid de Saukeville, Richer de Aquila, Wm. Maufe, Randulf Brade.

The long list of benefactions may be brought to a close with a number of miscellaneous charters:

(61.) Ralph de Iclesham gives: two Flanders acres in the new marsh of Iclesham and grants the canons permission to enclose at their own expense one Bescate of land in the same marsh, but they are to protect this from the sea: This I have done for the soul of Ralph de Dene my grandfather who founded the said church: Witness; Vincent de Ria, Robert and Hamo my brothers, Bertram de Gestling (possibly the same as Bertram de Hertshorne the donor's brother-in-law).

(56.) Hugh de Diva gives: the land which they hold in my fee of Otteham: Witness; Martin my chaplain, Ralph de Diva my brother, and Hamo de Iclesham.

(57.) Hugh de Diva gives: the land which Agnes who was wife of Hugh de Lampa held of my fee in the marsh beyond the port of Pevenes.

(52.) Turstan son of Gilbert de Hodinges gives: half a hide of land in Lamport which had belonged to William the son of [sic] Boselin: Witness; Gotcline son of Reinfred, Michael de Turnham, Walerand de Herst, Wm. de Ricarville, Randulf de Horsei, Reginald de Clintune.

(53.) John son of Turstan de Hodings gives: the homage of John de Hydenia for one hide of land in Lamport.

(54.) Robert de Marci and Hysabel daughter of William de Lebes his wife confirm the gifts of Turstan de Hoddinge: and be it known that for this charter the canons have given to us two Bezants: Witness; Ric. de Hydeni.

(50.) Ralph de Belevale gives: a third part of that salt-pan called the Guldenesaltkote.

(58.) Randulf de Horsye gives: one acre of land near the house of Richard Gulafre; this I have done with the consent of Laurence my son and heir.

(60.) William Maufe gives: land at Kenerede: Witness; Guy and Peter Maufe.

(63.) Hugh de Palema gives: the land which Galfrid de Didtuna holds of me at Didtuna, with the said Galfrid and his children: Witness; Ric. Camerarius, Alured de Chilleya, Osbert my son.

(64.) William de Horsted gives: all the land which they hold of my fee in the marsh of the gift of Ralph de Dena: Witness; Randulf Brade, Wm. de Sessingham.

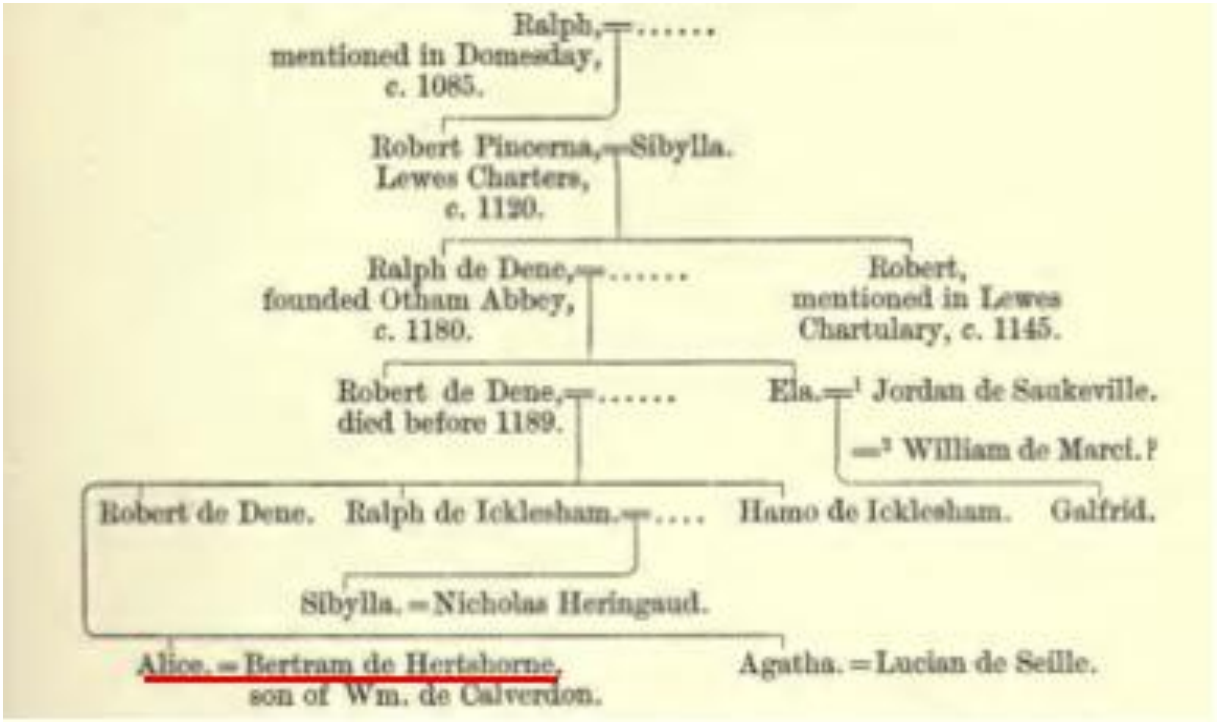
(65.) Daniel son of Adam gives: all his rent of Hertham, Hya and Horsia: Witness; Dom. Anchitel prior of Boxgrave, Master

[sic] Boselin was brother to Hugh de Diva.

[140] Salzmann, L. F. (1901, p. 184), The History of the Parish of Hailsham, The Priory Abbey of Michelham.

[141] The village of "Hailsham" is mentioned in Domesday Book, where it is called Hamelesham in one part, yet mentioned in another part of the same book as ''Tilux'', the land of Ricard de Tunbrige.

The donor of land to the cannons in Icklesham is Ralph Iclesham, as noted by Salzmann (1901, p. 184). The researcher suggests on page 173 that Ralph's brother-in-law, Bertram de Gestling, may also be identified by the likely pseudonym Bertram de Hertsborne (from Derbyshire, Midlands England):[142]


Ralph, =.....
mentioned in Domesday, c. 1085.
Robert Pincerna, =Sibylla.
Lewes Charters, c. 1120.
Ralph de Dene, =.....
founded Otham Abbey, c. 1180.
Robert, mentioned in Lewes Chartulary, c. 1145.
Robert de Dene, =.....
died before 1189.
Ela. =[1] Jordan de Saukeville.
=[2] William de Marci.?
Robert de Dene.
Ralph de Icklesham. =....
Hamo de Icklesham.
Galfrid.
Sibylla. = Nicholas Heringaud.
Alice. = Bertram de Hertshorne, son of Wm. de Calverdon.
Agatha. = Lucian de Seille.

As clearly indicated in the bottom left corner of the genealogical table, Salzmann first identified Bertram as "Bertram Hertshorne," found to be in Derbyshire, the son of William de Calverdon, who married sister Alice Dene or Iclesham.

On page 184, he suggests a correction by clarifying that Bertram is actually Bertram de Guestling supported by a witness record involving Ralph Icklesham, which raises the possibility that this Bertram de Gestling is indeed the same individual as Bertram de Hertshorne of Derbyshire. At first glance, current researcher believes this assumption to be correct; however, it is a mistake to claim that William de Calverdon is Bertram's father.

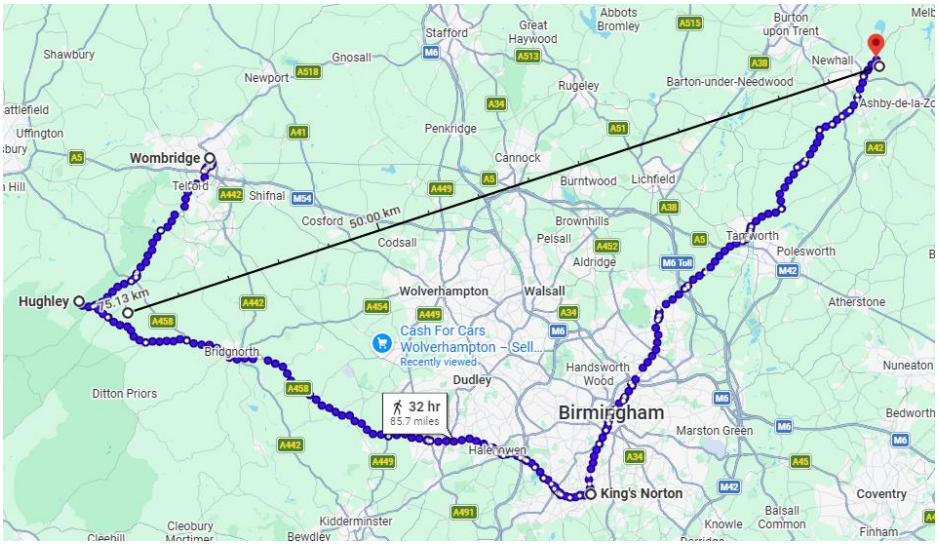
Until otherwise advised, and in the absence of contrary evidence, Bertram de Gestling, also known as Bertram de Hertshorne from Derbyshire (Midlands, England), was married to Alice Dene/Icklesham from the Parish of Hailsham, Sussex, near Gestling. According to the Sussex Record Society's digital editions of the Chartulary of Lewes Priory and the Battle Archives, Ralph de Icklesham is noted as a benefactor of Battle Abbey around 1190, passing away around 1205. His only daughter and heiress, also named Sibylla, married Nicholas Harengot (or Heringod) of Kent, which ultimately transferred the family's Sussex holdings to the Harengot family.

Bertram de Gestling had to be born in the early 1150s, around 1152. Showing to the familial and geographical connections. He is generationally separated from Gilbert "the Stranger" Gest, who is found in Sussex and hailed from the Midlands, and is recognised Bertram Gest's paternal grandfather. The likely prospect father is Alan de Gest of Lega Shropshire, known to be the only candidate and a god fit to be his father and son of Gilbert the Stranger.

[142] Ibid, Salzmann, L. F. (1901, p. 173).

Continuing with Bertram de Gestling (c. 1152 - circa1205), likely also from Hertshorne, Derbyshire, we can confirm a familial link to the area where Alan de Gest granted land in Lega by Wombridge Priory in 1150 shortly before Bertram's presumed birth. As previously shown, Alan de Gest is further supported as son of Gilbert the Stranger through another likely descendant Æthelric and his son Eadric.

This connection also reinforces Bertram Gest (de Gestling) of Gestling Sussex, also referred to as Bertran de Hershorne of Derbyshire, as a second or subsequent son of Alan de Gestc. (1120 - c. 1180) from Lega (Hughey located not far east of Hershorne and near Kings, Worcestershire, just south of town of Dudley, Birmingham:



Gilbert “the Strangers” brother Benwoldus Gest (c. 1078-aft 1141) of Sussex

Benwoldus Gest (c. 1085– 1141) has been identified through deduction and elimination of others, with the only alternative found, his brother Gilbert, is the father of Samson de Gestling (c. 1110–).

PART 4 – GUESTS OF SOUTH EAST ENGLAND 1330-945

Collateral relative, Benwoldus Gest (c.1078-c. 1141), father of Samson Gest I (c. 1110-)

Benwoldus Gest is more likely than not the younger brother of Gilbert due to his brother's extensive land holders compare to Benwoldus. Benwoldus is considered by deduction of such a are male population I Guestling for his time to be the father of Anglo-Saxon origin, Samson Gest I (c. 1110-) and he, Samson I, from Guestling, as well as Broomhill, Sussex. These two villages where he can be placed are situated 11 miles apart in the southeast Sussex:

Samson de Gestling II (c. 1142-)

Samson de Gestling II (c. 1132-) the younger, is the first born of two sons to Samson de Gestling I. His brother is Robert de Gestling, in which his history profile will follow subsequently.

Little is known about this line apart from scant information in record. Samson de Gestling II is found as a witness to charters granting lands to Robertsbridge priory, including those by Alice, countess of Eu (d. 11 Sept 1188) and her son Count Henry (d. ca. 1190).[143] His standing as witness to Countess Alice alludes to his high local status and underscores, he has assumed his father of the same name's place among their community. Samson de Gestling II's son is John de Gestling II born circa 1170 and who married Isablla de Gestling who was not a relation and of a family who confusing came to adopt the same partonomic.

[143] Monasticon Anglicanum (1846), vol. V, p. 667, no. III; p. 668, no. VI.

John de Gestling (c. 1170-)

This John de Gestling (c. 1170-) should not confused with his namesake, Justice John de Gestling (c. 1145-1219), a paternal blood relative, and who enjoyed overlapping life spans.

This present John de Gestling (c. 1170-), is the son of Samson de Gestling (c. 1170-), and to complicated matters married Isabel de Gestling, whose family name is also Guestling, but unrelated and explained as her patrilineal family's adopted geographical surname used since 1100 after the originals settled in Guestling in 1070.

Isabella's father John de Gestling of the adopted patronymic

Isabella is the daughter of another John de Guestling, a contemporary of John Guestling (c. 1154-1219) with similar life spans as it seems.

The father of Isabella was well known to King John and his lands and property included from 1201 to 1206 land in France in addition to land ins Sussex in and around Guestling hundred once held prior to 1070 by the family of Isabella's husband the 1066 conquest original Guestling family with roots back thee to around 945, and the village and hundred named after them the Anglo-Saxon Guests rather than the adopted patronymic Guests form 1070. In 1201, John de Guestling, of the adopted patronymic, was given King's grant of protection as mentioned above: [144]

The Magna Carta Project

Charters not found in surviving rolls

Introduction to the Newly Discovered Charters of King John

By year

Notification of the King's grant of protection to John of Guestling

Identity	B80
Title	Notification of the King's grant of protection to John of Guestling
Beneficiary	John of Guestling *(People)*
Date of issue	2 August 1201
Place of issue	Chinon *(Places)*
Sources	B = PRO C 52/5 (Cartae Antiquae Roll E) no.25, s.xiii in.
Printed	(from B) *The Cartae Antiquae Rolls* 1-10, ed. L. Landon, Pipe Rolls Society n.s. xvii (1939), i, no.174.
Comment	

Transcription

I(ohannes) Dei gratia rex Anglie dominus Hibernie dux Normannie et Aquitanie comes Andegauie iusticiariis, vicecomitibus et omnibus bailliuis et fidelibus salutem. Mandamus vobis quod custodiatis, protegatis, manuteneatis et defendatis omnes terras, res, redditus et possessiones Iohannis de Gestling' sicut nostram dominicam, nec inferatis ei vel inferri permittatis molestiam, iniuriam aut grauamen nec ponantur in placitum de aliquo tenemento suo nisi coram nobis vel capitali iusticiario nostro, et precipimus quod quietus sit de schiris et hundredis et custodia castellorum quamdiu vixerit. Testibus: W(illelmo) Marescallo comite de Penbroc, W(illelmo) comite ....., Roberto de Turnham, Petro de Stoke apud Chinon', ii. die Augusti.

Calendar

Mandate to the king's men to protect the land and possessions of John of Guestling.

[144] Protection by King John to John de Guestling, in 1201Magna Carta Project. Date of issue: 2 August 1201. Place of issue: Chinon (Places). Sources: B = PRO C 52/5 (Cartae Antiquae Roll E) no.25, s.xiii in. Printed: from B) The Cartae Antiquae Rolls 1-10, ed. L. Landon, Pipe Rolls Society, xvii (1939), i, no.174.

From what the present author can decipher from untangling the analogous records of three John Guestling, of the era with all having overlapped lifespans, and all related either by blood or marriage, and leaving aside justice John Guestling, active in York from 1199-1219, what we further know about Isabella's father, leaving aside, also her husband John, the mandate which was King's men to protect his the land and possession was for property King John gave him in Chinon, France, not specifically for property he held in England.

In 1201, Chinon was a vital continental stronghold of the Angevin Empire, ruled by King John (also known as John Lackland). Although located in the Touraine region of modern-day France, it was a cornerstone of the English crown's power on the continent. The Royal Court in May 1201 saw King John and his wife, Queen Isabella of Angoulême, arrive in Normandy and subsequently visited Chinon. Isabella joined John's sister-in-law, Queen Berengaria (widow of Richard the Lionheart), at the fortress during this period.

The Château de Chinon served as a primary treasury and administrative hub for the Plantagenet kings. It was the favourite residence of John's father, Henry II, who had significantly expanded the site. By 1201, tensions were escalating with King Philip II of France. While John still held the fortress, Philip was actively working to dismantle the Angevin grip on French lands. Chinon would remain in English hands for only four more years, eventually falling to the French in 1205 after an epic nine-month siege. This outcome, altogether unsatisfactory for John de Guestling (c. 1145-1219).

Below are records for King John providing John de Gestling of the adopted patronymic the benefit of market fees for the town of nearby Winchelsea in the hundred of Guestling, Sussex where John also held significant real property which he retained and passed down to an unknown son then on to he and Isabella Gestling's grandson Philip, last of the line.

Perhaps the Winchelsea market fees afforded to hi m by King John in 1209 was some restitution for the property John lost in France in 1205, and passed back to the Crown it seems in 1283: [145]

M (Charter) Thurs; *mercatum*, gr 29 Mar 1209, by K John to John de Gestling. To be held on his fee at 'Westwincheles' (*RCh*, p. 185b). On 17 Nov 1215, the men of Winchelsea were granted that the Thurs market beyond the town on the fee of John de Gestlinges would in future be held in the town, in front of the ch of the Blessed Thomas (*RLC*, i, p. 237). Mandate to the bailiff of Winchelsea to move the market because of the inundation of the sea, 18 Aug 1262 (*CR*, 1261–4, p. 148). This market was presumably transferred to New Winchelsea in 1283.

F (Charter) f+2, Invention of Holy Cross (3 May); *feria* gr 29 Mar 1209, by K John to John de Gestling (*RCh*, p. 185b). To be held on his fee at 'Westwincheles'. This fair may have come into the possession of the men of Winchelsea and consequently may have been transferred to New Winchelsea in 1283, but that is far from certain. Otherwise, the fair ceased in or before 1283.

Turning to Isabella's husband John de Gestling (c. 1170-) son of Samson de Gestling II, Richardson & Ravilious (2013) suggests Samson de Gestling II held significant land and that would have at some point passed to John and Isabella.[146] [147]

[145] Sussex Gazetteer. 17 November, 2006. Entries for John de Gestling.

[146] Ravilious, John P. (2013). "The ancestry of Clarice, wife of Robert de Auberville" (12/30/2013). SOC Genealogy Medieval.

[147] D. Richardson (2013). "Clarice de Auberville, wife of Sir Fulk Fitz Warin." SGM, 9 Dec 2005. See also other threads discussing Clarice, her parentage and daughter Mabel in the SGM archives.

Beyond Isabella's father is her grandfather Geoffrey de Gestling, and they are of Norman descent rather than Anglo-Saxon which is the ethnicity of Isabella's husband.

The John and Isabella's marriage may have been political to alleviate tensions between their two previously distinctly different families. Isabella appears to be the only child and there is no other heir male on her side of the family, so a marriage between the Gestling originals pre conquest would vicariously carry forward her father partonomic, albeit adopted around 100 in the future. This occurred because we know John and Isabella grandson who inherited all of the estates had two lineal ancestors, great grandparents both carrying the Guest patronymic, one Saxon and the other Norman.

<u>Philip de Guestling's John & Isabel de Gestling's lineal descendent</u>

Philip de Gestling (c. 1240-at. 1315), was Roman Catholic priest under the Church of Rome's prevailing cannon law of celibacy from about 1140. He was also the Rector of Guestling and was granted back the Manor of Guestling once held also as was the Parish of Guestling independently held. In 1271 Philip de Gestling, Rector of Gestling took the Battle Abbey to ecclesial court about the conduct of some of the monks there:

"A set of positions (with replies) from tutorial appeal proceedings in the Court of Canterbury, begun by [Philip,] rector of Guestling Sx, against the abbot and convent of Battle Sx. The rector argues against an exception of the monks that they could not be legally cited before the dean of Chichester - the original judge of a case over tithes between the two parties - inside their banleuca. [Not dated. Relates to other records dated 1271: see Select Cases case C.12]":

Below are details showing John de Gestling (c. 1144-) and his bride Isabel de Gestling, lineal offspring, Rector of Guestling, Phillip de Gestling in 1308 granted the Manor of Guestling and other property in 1308: [148] [footnotes mine]:

> *"A Robert de Guestling is met with as early as 1130;[149] and Alice widow of Geoffrey de Guestling in 1219 claimed dower against John, son of Geoffrey by a previous wife, in Guestling and Iden and elsewhere. John died soon after this, his heir apparently being his half-brother Robert, [150] the son of Geoffrey and Alice, who in 1223 was under age and in ward to Peter de Scotney. About twenty years later the manor seems to have been divided between the two daughters of John de '[G]Estling', [Gestling] [151] Isabel who married another John de Guestling, and Agatha who married Henry de Ore. Henry* ***in 1254*** *received, at the instance of Richard de Ore, lord of Ore and doubtless his near kinsman, a grant of free warren in his demesne lands of Guestling, and a fair there yearly on the eve, day and morrow of St Laurence (Aug. 9 to 11). Henry however became involved in the Baron's War of* ***1264 and in 1265*** *his lands were forfeited, an allowance being made to his wife. Guestling evidently passed to* ***John de Ore whose widow Amice in 1307 secured the reversion[152] of the second half of the manor and advowson from Philip de Gestling,[153]*** *after which it descended in the same manner as Ore (q.v.)."*

This acquisition by Philip is backed further to be the year 1308 and in the reign of Edward II. It was Amice the late the wife of John de Ore left half of Guestling to Philip de Gestlinge nd the remainder to William de Ore son of John: [154] [155]

FEET OF FINES

FOR

THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX.

CONTINUED FROM VOLUME VII.

1 EDWARD II.

1229. William de Bosco v. Nicholas le Spir of Cycestr' and Felice his wife; a messuage and 6 acres in West Wyghring'; to William for 10 marks. (*File* 40. *No.* 1.)

1230. Peter de Bonevill v. William Wodehorn and Sarra his wife; a messuage in Cycestre; to Peter for £10. (*File* 40. *No.* 2.)

1231. William Morel of Arundel v. Elias le Orfevre of Cycestre and Roesia his wife; a messuage in Arundel; to William for 10 marks. (*File* 40. *No.* 3.)

1232. Amice late the wife of John de Ore v. Philip de Gestlingge; half the manor of Gestlingge, and advowson of the church; to Philip for term of his life, with remainder to William son of John de Ore and his heirs. (*File* 40. *No.* 4.)

Amice Ore, considered Philip's aunt, left him half of the estate with strict conditions. Her decision to bequeath the Manor Gestling to Philip de Gestling after Isabel's father failed to transfer the Manor and other related properties to her husband suggests deep seated concerns persisted about the heritage and future of Isabel's husband original ancestral family seat.

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148 VCH Sussex, Vol. 9, Folkestone and London, 1973, Guestling Hundred, Guestling Manor, p 180.

149 The present author consider this Robert de Gestling died in 1130, and maybe a son of Cannon Doering.

150 Another named Robert de Gestling, born circa 1150 or later and not to be confused with contemporary Robert, Samson de Gestling (c. 1110-), the elder's son born circa 1144.

151 Considered clipped and corrected to read Gestling as the handwritten author intended.

152 "Secured the reversion" means a person or entity has legally guaranteed that they will regain full ownership, possession, or control of an asset-usually real estate or intellectual property-after a specific period or upon the occurrence of a certain event. It signifies that a reversionary interest is formally established, ensuring the property automatically returns to the original owner (grantor) rather than being permanently lost to another party.

153 "Advowser taken to mean (in ecclesiastical law) the right to recommend a member of the Anglican clergy for a vacant benefice, or to make such an appointment.

154 'Sussex Fines: 1-5 Edward II', in An Abstract of Feet of Fines for the County of Sussex: Vol. 3, 1308-1509, ed. L F Salzmann (Lewes, 1916), pp. 1-14. British History Online Amice widow of John Ore.

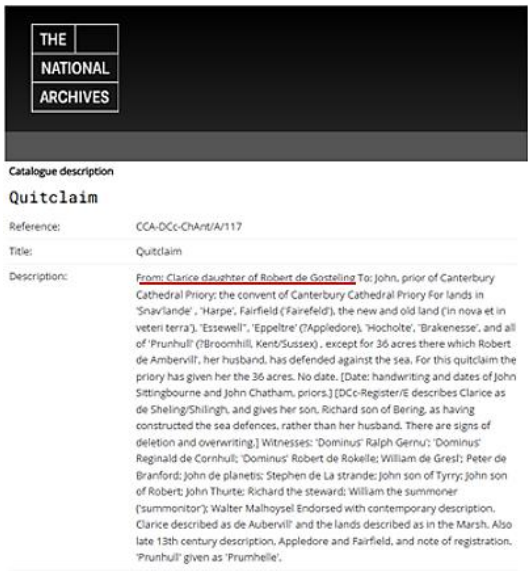
155 Salzman. L. F. (1916, p. 1). An Abstract of Feet of Fines Relating to the County of Sussex. From 1 Edward II to 24 Henry VII. Compiled by L. F. Salzmann, P.S.A.

Philip, the last male of the Gestling name, and descended from both of the unrelated Gestling families with his grandmother maternal line Provence in the 1070 Norman surname De Flocques, received his inheritance reluctantly, leading to the Ore family holding it once more after his death around 1315. The date coincides with the original Gestling name's extinction along the cadet branch about 1315.

The senior line of the family continues today in various countries, tracing back to Thomas Ghest (c. 1450-) of King's Norton Worcestershire, linked notable progenitors of two stems John Guest of Handsworth and his youngest son Giles Gest (c1490-1557) of nearby Tewkesbury.

Samson Gestling I's second son, Robert de Gestling (c. 1144-)

Samson de Gestling I's second of two sons, Robert de Gestling (c. 1144-) held the Manor of Guestling in Sussex as a tenant of the Count of Eu.[156] [157] He had one child a daughter, Claricia de Auberville, nee Gestling. Clarice is well documented as too is her husband Robert de Auberville and involved with the Battle Abbey including the parishes of Northiam, Pett and Playden.[158] The National Archives UK record overleaf confirms Clarice de Auberville, nee de Gestling is the daughter of Robert de Gestling (c. 11144-) prima facie. Samson's son.[159] [160]



THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Catalogue description

Quitclaim

Reference:	CCA-DCc-ChAnt/A/117
Title:	Quitclaim
Description:	From: Clarice daughter of Robert de Gostelling To: John, prior of Canterbury Cathedral Priory; the convent of Canterbury Cathedral Priory For lands in 'Snavlande' , 'Harpe', Fairfield ('Fairefeld'), the new and old land ('in nova et in veteri terra'), 'Essewell', 'Eppeltre' (?Appledore), 'Hocholte', 'Brakenesse', and all of 'Prunhull' (?Broomhill, Kent/Sussex) , except for 36 acres there which Robert de Ambervill', her husband, has defended against the sea. For this quitclaim the priory has given her the 36 acres. No date. [Date: handwriting and dates of John Sittingbourne and John Chatham, priors.] [DCc-Register/E describes Clarice as de Sheling/Shilingh, and gives her son, Richard son of Bering, as having constructed the sea defences, rather than her husband. There are signs of deletion and overwriting.] Witnesses: 'Dominus' Ralph Gernu'; 'Dominus' Reginald de Cornhull; 'Dominus' Robert de Rokelle; William de Gresl'; Peter de Branford; John de planetis; Stephen de La strande; John son of Tyrry; John son of Robert; John Thurte; Richard the steward; William the summoner ('summonitor'); Walter Malhoysel Endorsed with contemporary description. Clarice described as de Aubervill' and the lands described as in the Marsh. Also late 13th century description, Appledore and Fairfield, and note of registration. 'Prunhull' given as 'Prumhelle'.

[156] Noting further that The College of St Mary in the Norman Stone Castle at Hastings was founded in circa 1090 by Count Robert of Eu. A Collegiate College, within the castle itself, and its own canons etc. It was independent and was outside of the See of Chichester. It was well endowed and its canons between them held chapels at Wartling, Hooe and Ninfield, the churches of Bexhill, land at Hailsham, the Church of Guestling [St Laurence, Guestling], churches at Salehurst, Mountfield and Udimore (which were later to cause conflict with Robertsbridge Abbey) and further churches at Peasmarsh, Beckley, Iham, Iden, Playden, Ewhurst, Wilting, Hollington, Brightling and Bodiam. It would pass into the hands of the crown in 1267 and this would later cause some of the same issues between crown and the Bishop of Chichester as Battle Abbey later encountered. It did not prosper long term as the castle itself deteriorated and with it the college (See, Foord, K. 2017. Page 4, "1066-1272 Eastern Sussex Under the Norman and Angevin kings of England from the Battle of Hastings through the Accession of William II until the Death of Henry II". Battle District Historical Society (BDHS).

[157] The ancient wooden Saxon Castle was located on the same site as the Norman stone castle in Old Hastings dating back to hundreds of years before 1070. It included a Collegiate College of Canons of Guestling an ecclesiastical family that appeared manage the Guestling Church as their independent parish, which also featured a pre-Norman stone church before the construction of St. Laurence Church, Guestling around 1070. Bishop Siward Gest of Rochester (circa 990-5) maintained control over the old timber Saxon cannons houses and church until his death in 1075.

[158] Sussex Fines: 1-5 Henry III (nos. 138-171)', in L.F. Salzman (ed.), An Abstract of Feet of Fines for the County of Sussex, Vol. 1: 1190-1248, Sussex Records Society (Lewes, 1903), pp. 35-44, nos. 157, 158, 162 (British History Online, accessed 22 October 2017).

[159] 54 –Canterbury Cathedral Archives and Library. CCA-DCc-ChAnt - Dean and Chapter Archive. CCA-DCc-ChAnt/A - Chartae Antiquae A. Date: 1220-1238.

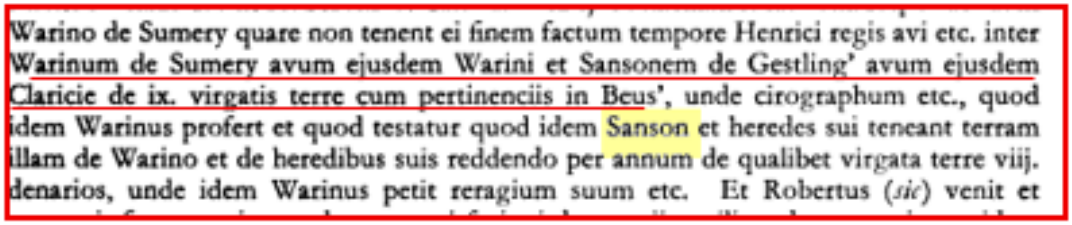
[160] See also: Sussex Fines ap. Sussex. Record Soc. II., pg. 40.

Clarice is further confirmed daughter of Robert de Guestling (Gosteling) (c. 1140-c. 1220) cited below in a land transaction further tying her to her husband Robert de Ambervill: [161] [162]

> ***'Clarice daughter of Robert de Gosteling'*** [163] *- quitclaimed certain lands to the priory of Canterbury Cathedral including the marshlands of Broomhill " except for 36 acres there which Robert de Ambervill', her husband, has defended against the sea."* [164]

Clarice was likely born about 1165 and died about 1240. Clarice and her husband Robert de Auberville had at least one child, a daughter also name Clarice. Other evidence confirms she is the granddaughter of Samson de Gestling I (c. 1110-), the elder. The confirming record was made in long reign of Henry III (r. 1216-1272). [165] [166]

> *"Warin de Sumery grandfather of the same Warin, and* ***Samson [Sansom] de Gestling, grandfather of the same Clarice****, regarding 9 virgates of land with appurtenances in Beus'.*



Warino de Sumery quare non tenent ei finem factum tempore Henrici regis avi etc. inter Warinum de Sumery avum ejusdem Warini et Sansonem de Gestling' avum ejusdem Claricie de ix. virgatis terre cum pertinenciis in Beus', unde cirographum etc., quod idem Warinus profert et quod testatur quod idem Sanson et heredes sui teneant terram illam de Warino et de heredibus suis reddendo per annum de qualibet virgata terre viij. denarios, unde idem Warinus petit reragium suum etc. Et Robertus (*sic*) venit et

The Collegiate Church, built at Hastings Castle between1070 and 1090, became part of the Crown's possessions in 1267. It is likely that previously mentioned issues regarding Clarice and her grandfather Samson's citation are related to their family's ties to the site and the earlier Saxon structures.[167] Claricia de Gestling is estimated to be born about 1185 and died about 1240. Her father Robert de Gestling (c. 1144-abt. 1220) perhaps expired around 1220, and died without male issue. Robert de Auberville and Clarice had a daughter also named Clarice de Auberville who married Fulk FitzWarin. [168]

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[161] Corrupted spelling of Guestling (Gestling), consultation, Douglas Richardson, 2013.

[162] Author's note: Insights into Clarice de Gestling and her patriline can be drawn from the available information. More details may be found in Volume 9 of the County History of Sussex, which unfortunately is not accessible online. If any reader has access to this volume, it could provide information about the parishes of Guestling, Icklesham, Iden, and Northiam, and the author would greatly appreciate it. An online search of the Hathi Trust catalogue item [https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015068988735&q1=Guestling&start=1], shows numerous page references to Guestling" and "Gestling" in the documents but the content itself is unavailable online. Email: jguest1000@gmail.com.au.

[163] Cal. Robertsbridge, ibid., p. 17, no. 51.

[164] Quitclaim, CCA-DCc-ChAnt/A/117, nd [1222x1238] in a thread shared between Douglas Richardson and John Ravilous in regards to a letter from Clarice daughter of Robert de Gosteling, to John, prior of Canterbury Cathedral Priory in regards to the convent of Canterbury Cathedral Priory. Whereby: "For lands in 'Snavlande', 'Harpe', Fairfield ['Fairefeld'], the new and old land ['in nova et in veteri terra], 'Essewell'', 'Eppeltre' [Appledore], 'Hocholte', 'Brakenesse', and all of 'Brunhull' [Broomhill, Kent/Sussex], except for 36 acres there which Robert de Ambervill', her husband, has defended against the sea. For this quitclaim the priory has given her the 36 acres. No date. [Date: handwriting and dates of John Sittingbourne and John Chatham, priors.] [DCc-Register/E describes Clarice as de Sheling/Shilingh, and gives her son, Richard son of Bering, as having constructed the sea defences, rather than her husband. There are signs of deletion and overwriting]. Witnesses: 'Dominus' Ralph Gernu'; 'Dominus' Reginald de Cornhull; 'Dominus' Robert de Rokelle; William de Gresl'; Peter de Branford; John de planetis; Stephen de La strande; John, son of Tyrry; John, son of Robert; John Thurte; Richard the steward; William the summoner ['summonitor']; Walter Malhoysel Endorsed with contemporary description. Clarice described as 'de Aubervill' and the lands described as in the Marsh [Also, late 13th century description, Appledore and Fairfield, and note of registration. 'Brunhull' given as 'Prumhelle'] " [A2A, Canterbury Cathedral Archives, Dean and Chapter Archive, CCA-DCc-ChAnt/A/117] [Theirs – Richardson & Ravilious, SIGC, 31 December 2013).

[165] Curia Regis Rolls...preserved in the Public Record Office, 7 to 9 Henry III (1955) p. 315.

[166] Curia Regis Rolls (1955: full text not seen], p. 325: "Radulfus de Aubervill' et Claricia uxor ejus attachiati fuerunt ad respondendum Warino de Sumery quare non tenent ei finem factum tempore Henrici regis avi etc. inter Warinum de Sumery avum ejusdem Warini et Sansonem de Gestling' avum ejusdem Claricie de ix. virgatis terre cum pertinenciis in Beus', unde cirographum etc., quod idem Warinus profert et quod testatur quod idem Sanson et heredes sui ... "

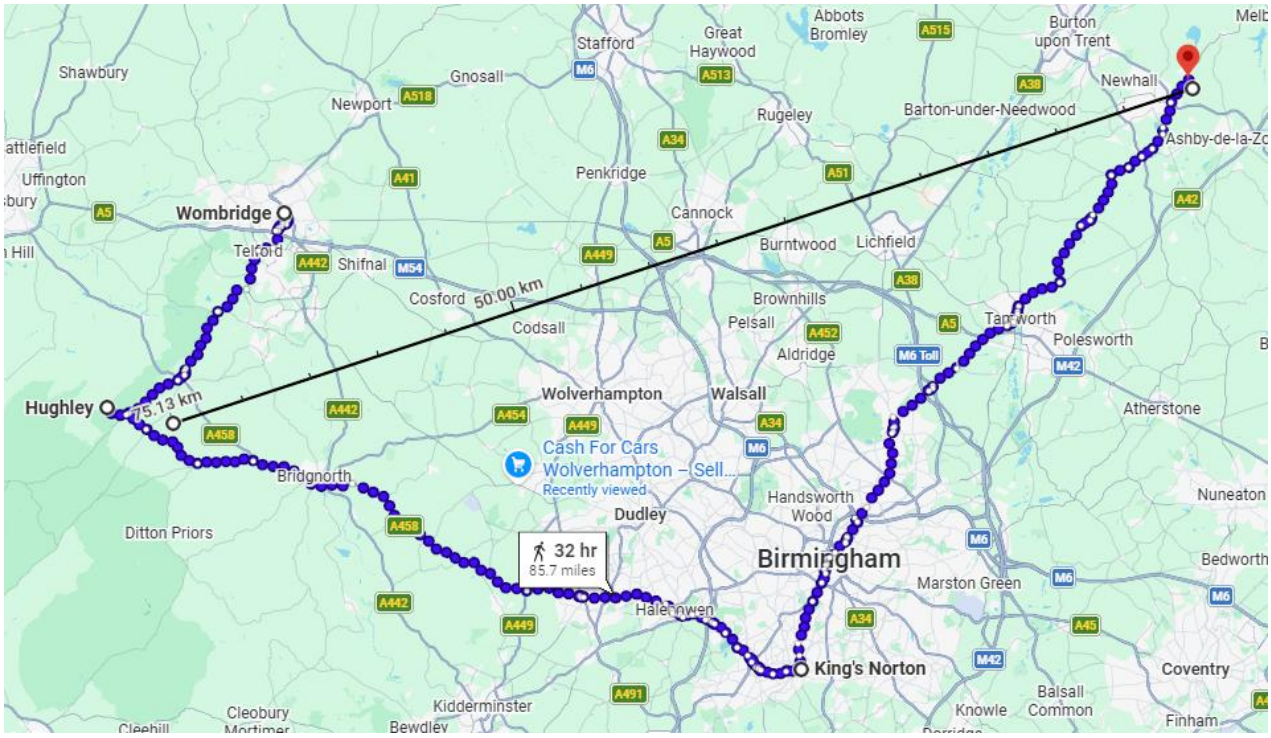
[167] Ibid, Foote, K. (2017, p.4). 1066-1272 Eastern Sussex Under the Norman and Angevin kings of England from the Battle of Hastings.

[168] Richardson, D. (2205). "C.P. Addition: Clarice de Auberville, wife of Sir Fulk Fitz Warin" (12th September 2005).

Mother Clarice's father Robert de Gestling (c. 1144-1220)'s death coincides with the Guestling family selling part of its property to Christchurch in the area of Broomhill Marsh, near Jury's inlet, prone to severe flood, early in the 13th century: [169]

several guts. These included the old gut of Jury's Gut and a new one, and walls, such as Gore Wall and All Saints Wall, as well as the formation of a new piece of marsh called Southnewland. The account is confusing, but when used in conjunction with the field evidence it seems likely that the Lydd Quarry area was fresh marsh. However, according to an inquiry of 1365, inundation had occurred at Broomhill and at Ocholt (Ocholt at Scotney was sometimes called 'Little Ocholt' to distinguish it), and at lands belonging to Christchurch Priory, which it had acquired from the de Gestling family in the early 13th century (that is to the west of Kent Pen and Sandy Land Walls).[27] For the holders of neighbouring manors expenditure on sea defences was, therefore, seen as

Furthermore, upon reviewing all the uncovered records, it is that Bertram Gest, also known as Bertram de Gestling Sussex and sometimes referred to as Bertram de Hershorne from Derbyshire. He is from the Guest family tree above as he is considered a collateral relative. His story is included in the notes section, not only because of his in Sussex, which he adopted as his home, but also due to his connection to Gestling hundreds in Sussex, similar to his grandfather Gilbert the Stranger, as a way reconnect with their ancestral homeland.
In the Sussex record for Bertram de Gestling, noted 1901, Salzmann identified him as likely being same individual as Bertram de Hershorne mentioned earlier. The modern map below illustrates the location of Hershorne, Derbyshire, situated northeast of Dudley, Birmingham and not far also form Lega (Highley) Shropshire. Shown also is its proximity to King's Norton:



[169] ESRO: RYE 57/4. Bodleian: MS dd All Souls c184/1. Gardiner, pers. comm.

Bertram Gest is linked to Bertram de Hershorne Derbyshire, indicating his movements from nearby Hertshorne Lega, as mentioned earlier, and later to Gestling, Sussex, suggesting that he left Lega (Highley) in Shropshire to forge his own path as Alan's subsequent son.

Alan looms large as Bertram Gest for several reasons of genealogical and generational fit. But also, because he was the younger brother of Thomas Gest who is the son known to have inherited Alan's, estate in Lega Shropshire. Bertram found his way to make a life for himself with records to place him first in nearby Hershorne, Derbyshire form Lega Shropshire and later in Guestling, Sussex and in the same social orbit as known extended family members of the Guest family originals in Gestling.

Reconstructed from new evidence, it is suggested that he received wise counsel from his family elders, which aided him as the 15-year-old King Egar II (r. Oct-Dec 1066),[170][171] in navigating his family and the Saxon Kingdom through the succession crisis of English autumn of 1066:

Much of the evidence backing these claims is detailed in Part 5. The evidence [172] examined [173] collectively leads to a series of conclusions presented in Part 6. [174]

[170] Royal. Uk. Official website of the Royal Household. Edgar Atheling (r. Oct - Dec 1066).
[171] Edgar Atheling's position in the genealogical roll of the Kings of England. The British Library Board, Royal 14 B. VI membrane.
[172] Types of evidence include genealogical tables, historical documents, charters, wills, records from the Great Domesday Book, studies of Saxon place names and topography from 1066 and earlier, archaeological finds, and ecclesiastical, royal, and noble histories.
[173] Triangulation of 10th and 11th-century sources involved integrating disparate data types-land surveys, genealogical records, place-names, and archaeology-to reconstruct the social, political, and physical landscape surrounding the Gest family pre-dating 1066. This multidisciplinary approach validates narratives by checking if, for instance, a name in a genealogical table held the exact estate listed in the Great Domesday Book, a connection further confirmed by pre-Conquest charters, the presence of Anglo-Saxon foundations (archaeology), and consistent Toponymy.
[174] Palmer, F. B. (1907, pp.235-240), Peerage Law in England" A Practical Treatise for Lawyers and Laymen.

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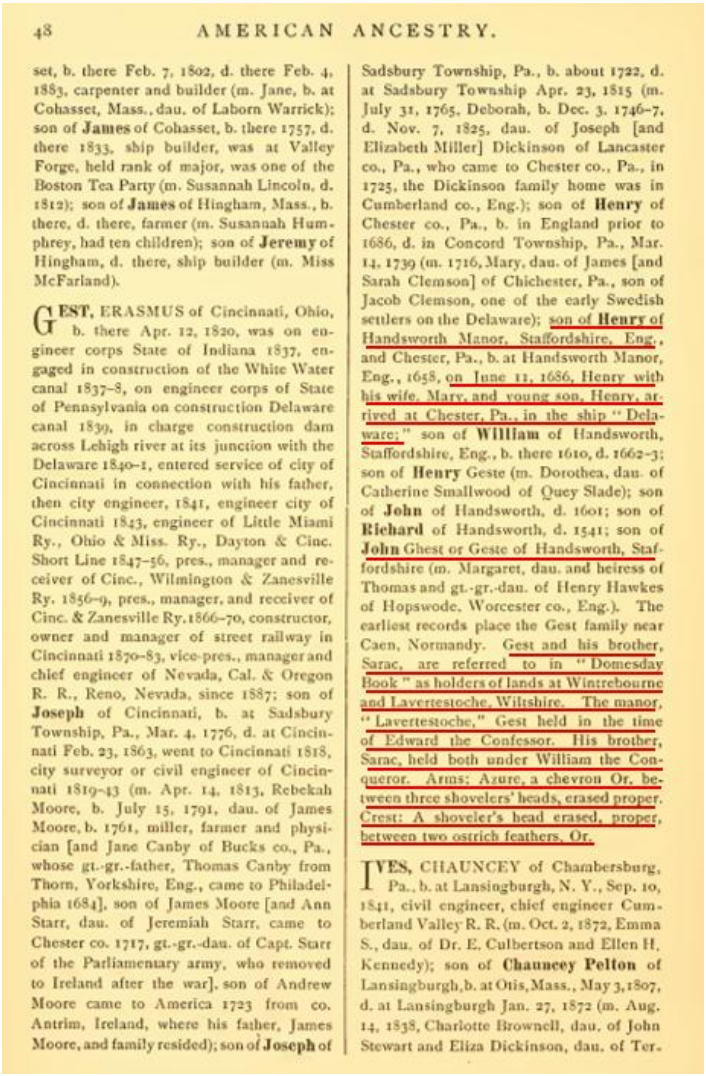
PART 5 - SAERIC'S PATERNAL HERITAGE

Saeric (c. 1035-1107/8), son of Sibi of Chilham and Ælfgyva

In 1066, Saeric served as a sub-tenant of various manors and lands, particularly Little Missenden, which was adjacent to his aunt Edith's estate, the Manor of Amersham. These properties comprised a substantial part of the eastern route connecting Amersham and Wallingford. The village of Berkhamsted lies directly northeast of Amersham.

In 1086, Saeric owned a collection of personal estates. It is thought that Saeric (circa 1033 – after 1086) and his descendants gradually divided their lands into smaller parcels in mid-West England to the future of subsequent generations.[175] This helps explain why Thomas Ghest, born around 1468, became the successor to his father William holding King's Norton in Worcestershire, which was part of Staffordshire in 1066 and is now in the metropolitan county of West Midlands. In 1890, Draper observed that the arms passed down to Guest from Handsworth, Staffordshire (Warwickshire), close to Tewkesbury, [176] closely resembled those shown by Særic (Saric [Saricus]) during the time of the Domesday Book, from 1066 to 1086:



48 AMERICAN ANCESTRY.

set, b. there Feb. 7, 1802, d. there Feb. 4, 1883, carpenter and builder (m. Jane, b. at Cohasset, Mass., dau. of Laborn Warrick); son of **James** of Cohasset, b. there 1757, d. there 1833, ship builder, was at Valley Forge, held rank of major, was one of the Boston Tea Party (m. Susannah Lincoln, d. 1812); son of **James** of Hingham, Mass., b. there, d. there, farmer (m. Susannah Humphrey, had ten children); son of **Jeremy** of Hingham, d. there, ship builder (m. Miss McFarland).

GEST, ERASMUS of Cincinnati, Ohio, b. there Apr. 12, 1820, was on engineer corps State of Indiana 1837, engaged in construction of the White Water canal 1837–8, on engineer corps of State of Pennsylvania on construction Delaware canal 1839, in charge construction dam across Lehigh river at its junction with the Delaware 1840–1, entered service of city of Cincinnati in connection with his father, then city engineer, 1841, engineer city of Cincinnati 1843, engineer of Little Miami Ry., Ohio & Miss. Ry., Dayton & Cinc. Short Line 1847–56, pres., manager and receiver of Cinc., Wilmington & Zanesville Ry. 1856–9, pres., manager, and receiver of Cinc. & Zanesville Ry. 1866–70, constructor, owner and manager of street railway in Cincinnati 1870–83, vice-pres., manager and chief engineer of Nevada, Cal. & Oregon R. R., Reno, Nevada, since 1887; son of **Joseph** of Cincinnati, b. at Sadsbury Township, Pa., Mar. 4, 1776, d. at Cincinnati Feb. 23, 1863, went to Cincinnati 1818, city surveyor or civil engineer of Cincinnati 1819–43 (m. Apr. 14, 1813, Rebekah Moore, b. July 15, 1791, dau. of James Moore, b. 1761, miller, farmer and physician [and Jane Canby of Bucks co., Pa., whose gt.-gr.-father, Thomas Canby from Thorn, Yorkshire, Eng., came to Philadelphia 1684], son of James Moore [and Ann Starr, dau. of Jeremiah Starr, came to Chester co. 1717, gt.-gr.-dau. of Capt. Starr of the Parliamentary army, who removed to Ireland after the war], son of Andrew Moore came to America 1723 from co. Antrim, Ireland, where his father, James Moore, and family resided); son of **Joseph** of Sadsbury Township, Pa., b. about 1722, d. at Sadsbury Township Apr. 23, 1815 (m. July 31, 1765, Deborah, b. Dec. 3, 1746–7, d. Nov. 7, 1825, dau. of Joseph [and Elizabeth Miller] Dickinson of Lancaster co., Pa., who came to Chester co., Pa., in 1725, the Dickinson family home was in Cumberland co., Eng.); son of **Henry** of Chester co., Pa., b. in England prior to 1686, d. in Concord Township, Pa., Mar. 14, 1739 (m. 1716, Mary, dau. of James [and Sarah Clemson] of Chichester, Pa., son of Jacob Clemson, one of the early Swedish settlers on the Delaware); son of **Henry** of Handsworth Manor, Staffordshire, Eng., and Chester, Pa., b. at Handsworth Manor, Eng., 1658, on June 11, 1686, Henry with his wife, Mary, and young son, Henry, arrived at Chester, Pa., in the ship "Delaware;" son of **William** of Handsworth, Staffordshire, Eng., b. there 1610, d. 1662–3; son of **Henry** Geste (m. Dorothea, dau. of Catherine Smallwood of Quey Slade); son of **John** of Handsworth, d. 1601; son of **Richard** of Handsworth, d. 1541; son of **John** Ghest or Geste of Handsworth, Staffordshire (m. Margaret, dau. and heiress of Thomas and gt.-gr.-dau. of Henry Hawkes of Hopswode, Worcester co., Eng.). The earliest records place the Gest family near Caen, Normandy. Gest and his brother, Sarac, are referred to in "Domesday Book" as holders of lands at Wintrebourne and Lavertestoche, Wiltshire. The manor, "Lavertestoche," Gest held in the time of Edward the Confessor. His brother, Sarac, held both under William the Conqueror. Arms: Azure, a chevron Or, between three shovelers' heads, erased proper. Crest: A shoveler's head erased, proper, between two ostrich feathers, Or.

IVES, CHAUNCEY of Chambersburg, Pa., b. at Lansingburgh, N. Y., Sep. 10, 1841, civil engineer, chief engineer Cumberland Valley R. R. (m. Oct. 2, 1872, Emma S., dau. of Dr. E. Culbertson and Ellen H. Kennedy); son of **Chauncey Pelton** of Lansingburgh, b. at Otis, Mass., May 3, 1807, d. at Lansingburgh Jan. 27, 1872 (m. Aug. 14, 1838, Charlotte Brownell, dau. of John Stewart and Eliza Dickinson, dau. of Ter-

[175] There is no single, universally fixed number of years for a generation, as the definition changes based on whether it is being applied to familial, demographic, or sociological contexts but considered to be 2-25 years. The medium, midpoint 25 years is applied in this study to equal one generation for baptism, married and burial date estimates.

[176] John Guest of Handsworth's son Giles Guest of Tewksbury, successful mercer, and philanthropists granted the Guest arms first in 1543, and in Giles lifetime, then posthumously granted to his father John Guest of Handsworth and his two older brother's Richard and Laurence in 1634.

In the nineteenth century, the publication the Norman People (1874, p. 272)[177]observed, similar to Draper (1890, p. 24),[178] that the Guest family was present in Shropshire at the time of the conquest, with ancestral connections to the Gest family of Guestling, Sussex, and also mentioned in the Great Domesday Book for 1066 in Kent.

The anonymous author appears to have consulted the research work of Mark Anthony Lower 1844, 1860 for the stepped-out lineage but prefers to direct ancestry back to Caen, Normandy. This may be the case but more likely than not the line passed through Sussex in the late Anglo-Saxon period, before Shropshire 1066 and then as indicated below before it is found in King's Norton Worcestershire late arriving their late 14thand early 15th century, at least patronymically so:

charter of John, Constable of Chester, for Stanlaw Abbey (Mon. i. 897). Ralph, his son, t. John (Ormerod, iii. 87), was ancestor of the Grosvenors of Cheshire. In the reign of Richard II., Lord Scrope objected to their use of their paternal arms, as his own ancestors had used the same, at which time it was proved that the G.s had borne their arms from the remotest ages; but the influence of Scrope obtained a decision depriving this family of their original arms. The Marquises of Westminster, Earls of Wilton, and Lords Ebury descend from this house.

Grout. *See* GROTE.

Gruchy, or Grochy, the French pronunciation of Grochet. Clarus de Grochet, Normandy, 1180 (MRS); Richard Grucet, England, c. 1272 (RH).

Grumell. Peter and Robert de Grumuell held lands at Nogent, Normandy, from Philip-Augustus (Mem. Soc. Ant. Norm. v. 182).

Gubbins, or De Gobion, from Bretagne. Guido Gobio witnessed a charter of Geoffry de Dinan, c. 1070, as one of his knights (Morice,

272

Gude, for Good.

Gudge. *See* GOODGE.

Gudgen. *See* GUDGEON.

Gudgeon, for Cucon. *See* GOGEON.

Guest. Guest was near Caen, Normandy. This family settled in Salop at the Conquest, and held Lega from the De Dunstanvilles. In 1150 Alan de D. granted the lands of Alric de Lega to Wombridge Priory (Eyton, Salop, ii. 273). Thomas de Lega, his son, occurs 1180 (314); Walter and Leonard, his sons, 1194–1230; Henry, son of Leonard, 1240 (315). Roger de Lega, or Guest, brother of the latter, had Thomas, who gave lands to Wombridge Priory (Eyton, Salop, ii. 313). In 1295 Adam Gest was assessor of parliamentary aide in Salop (PPW). From this Norman race descended Bishop Guest, one of the Reformers, and the eminent manufacturer, Sir John Guest.

Guise, or Gouiz. *See* CUSE. In 1165 Richard de Guiz held five knights' fees in Gloucester from the Earl of Gloucester (Lib. Niger). In 1203 Robert de Gouvis also held five fees of the honour of Gloucester, for

Guppy in his 1890 research leaned strongly towards the Guest (Gest/Ghest)[179] family of post conquest England attached to the place Kent, and then later, by late medieval times mid-west England in Worcestershire.
180

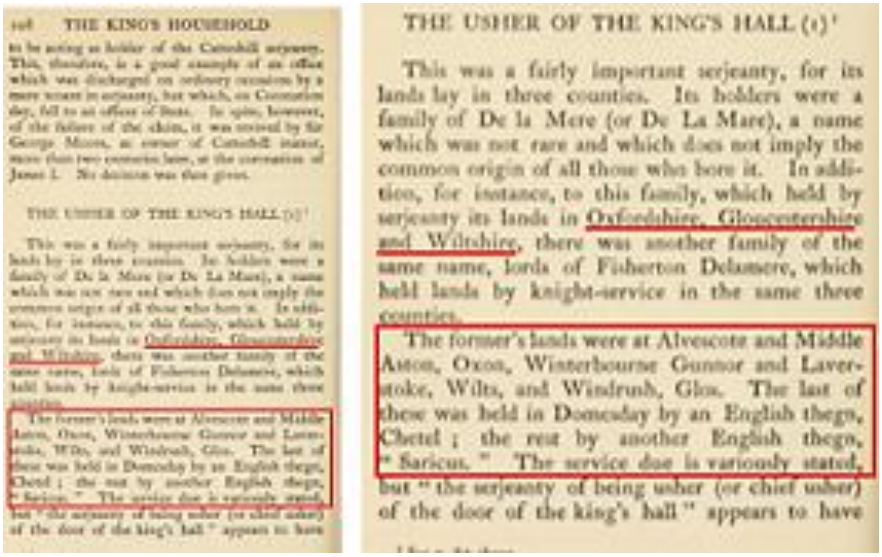
[177] King, H. S. (1874, p. 272). The Norman People and their Existing Descendants." In the British Dominions and the United States of America. Published by H.S. King & co. London.
[178] Draper, M. (1890, p.48). American Ancestry.
[179] Dan Beaver (2017, p. xiii) PhD. "The Accounts Book of Giles Geast Charity, Tewkesbury 1558-1891". (Extant) has the many variant spellings of the modern English Guest family name probably pronounced (always) as "Guest", based on the orthographic evidence.
[180] Guppy. H. B. (1890, p. 405, p. 495). Homes of Family Names.

This place Kent or south east England more particularly is considered to be more plausible explanation of the earlier place of origin for the Guest (Gest) family midland England than Caen Normandy. Whilst, Round (1911, p. 108), provides provenance of why Saeric (Saricus) would come to bear such arms, in the traditional standard banner used at the time of the Conquest 1066 recognising him as one of William I's royal thegns.

The current researcher believes that Saeric as a young man first acquired his manor and land honors as early as 1053. Around the same time, his likely great grandfather Siward of Grossus , known as "Siward the Old" in 1066, and his brother Ealdred, held property in Shrewsbury, Shropshire granted by Edward the Confessor as Tenants-in-Chief. [181] [182]

Meanwhile, Saeric received sub-tenant holdings, including Birley Manor in Herefordshire and Little Missenden in Berkshire, along with his brothers Gest, also in South Muskham, Nottinghamshire. His property in Berkshire, Little Missenden, bordered his grandfather and grand uncle's properties and the property of his maternal aunt, the Confessor's widow, and former Queen Edith (*Ædgyth*) his mother *Ælfgyva* 's sister.

According to Round in 1911, and confirmed by Great Domesday Book (GDB)[183] evidence also to follow, Saeric, became one of William I's King's thegns by the year 1086. In 1086, he, Saeric, spelled in the Latin form, "Saricus", held the Manors of Alvescot and Middle Aston Oxon (Oxfordshire), Winterbourne Gunnor and Laverstock in Wiltshire, and Windrush in Gloucestershire:[184]



THE USHER OF THE KING'S HALL (1)[1]

This was a fairly important serjeanty, for its lands lay in three counties. Its holders were a family of De la Mere (or De La Mare), a name which was not rare and which does not imply the common origin of all those who bore it. In addition, for instance, to this family, which held by serjeanty its lands in Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire, there was another family of the same name, lords of Fisherton Delamere, which held lands by knight-service in the same three counties.

The former's lands were at Alvescote and Middle Aston, Oxon, Winterbourne Gunnor and Laverstoke, Wilts, and Windrush, Glos. The last of these was held in Domesday by an English thegn, Chetel; the rest by another English thegn, " Saricus. " The service due is variously stated, but " the serjeanty of being usher (or chief usher) of the door of the king's hall " appears to have

Next, the evidence supporting these claims is presented in a sequential format that guides the through a genealogical timeline, reaching back further into the history of Saxon England.

[181] Corèdon, C. & Williams, A. (2007). A Dictionary of Medieval Terms & Phrases. Cambridge: D.S. Brewer.
[182] Bloch, M, (1961). Feudal Society. Vol. 2: Social Classes and Political Organization. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
[183] The Great Domesday Book, completed in 1086, chronicles land ownership prior to the Norman conquest, primarily documenting landholders from the reign of Edward the Confessor (1042–1066) to provide a reference point before William the Conqueror's barons confiscated estates. Notably, the recorded landholders from before 1066 were not solely those who held land "shortly after Edward's ascension" in 1042, but rather those who possessed it on the day of Edward's death (January 5, 1066), with some older records indicating continuous ownership since Edward's reign for certain individuals. Pre-Conquest Landholders (T.R.E.): The survey identifies landholders Tempore Regis Edwardi (T.R.E.), meaning "in the time of King Edward," specifically on the day he passed away in January 1066. This provides a baseline for comparing the significant changes in land ownership to the new Norman barons. Post-Conquest Landholders (T.R.W.): The survey also lists those who held land in 1086, referred to as Tempore Regis Willielmi (T.R.W.). The Transition Period: The survey sometimes notes the initial grantees of land by King William, indicating to whom the properties were first allocated. Extent of Takeover: The Domesday Book shows that most land initially owned by roughly 2,000 Saxon tenants-in-chief in 1066 had been transferred to about 200 Norman barons by 1086.
[184] Ibid, Round (1911, p. 108). English thegn, " Saricus. "

Saeric in Domesday Book 1066 to 1086

Saeric and his son Godmund/Guthmund [185] is recognised by PASE Domesday's researchers and writers by the name and codes, Saeric 2, 4 & 6, with some limited or selective information also presented found to contain genealogically relevant threads leading to discovery of other further informative records:

1066 (Saeric 2)

Shire	Phil. ref.	Vill	DB Spelling	Holder 1066	Lord 1066	Tenant-in-Chief 1086	1086 Subtenant
Herefordshire	**10,51**	**Birley**	**Seric**	**Særic father of Godmund**	**Harold, earl**	**Roger de Lacy**	**Godmund son of Særic**
Herefordshire	10,53	Swanstone	Seric	Særic father of Godmund	-	Roger de Lacy	Godmund son of Særic
Herefordshire	10,71	Marston Stannett	Seric	Særic father of Godmund	-	Roger de Lacy	Godmund son of Særic
Herefordshire	1,17	Sarnesfield	Seric	Særic father of Godmund	-	William, king	Roger de Lacy
Herefordshire	24,7	Newton	Seric	Særic father of Godmund	-	Osbern fitz Richard	-

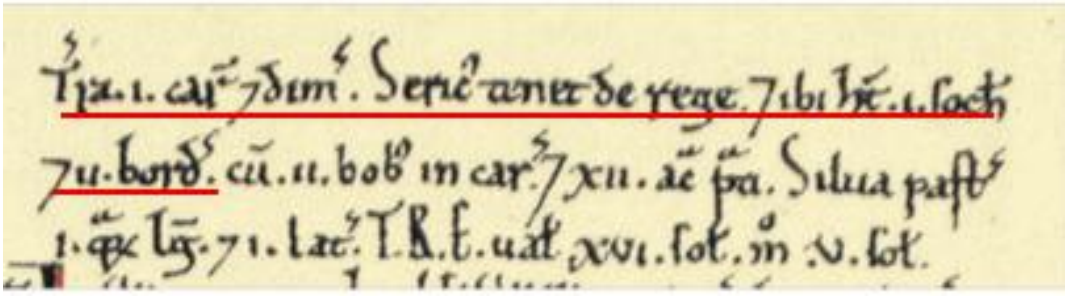
Saeric's Birley Manor, Hertfordshire 1066

Birley was a settlement in Domesday Book, in the hundreds of Stretford and the county of Herefordshire. It had a recorded population of 19 households in 1086, and is listed under 3 owners in Domesday Book.

Saeric in Nottingham in 1066 was found holding lands with his two rother Gest. He is later holding separately land nearby in 1086 as Lord Saeric of the Manor and lands of [South] Muskham. Open Domesday writes:

> *"[South] Muskham was a settlement in Domesday Book, in the hundred of Lythe and the county of Nottinghamshire. It had a recorded population of 24.5 households in 1086, putting it in the largest 40% of settlements recorded in Domesday, and is listed under 2 owners in Domesday Book... Land of Saeric - Households: 1 freeman. 2 smallholders. Land and resources. Ploughland: 1.5 ploughlands. 0.3 men's plough teams. Other resources: Meadow 12 acres. Woodland 1* 1 furlongs. Annual value to lord: 5 shillings in 1086; 16 shillings in 1066.Owners: Tenant-in-chief in 1086, Saeric; Lord in 1086, Saeric; Lord in 1066: Swartbrand (son of Ulf). Other information: Phillimore reference, Nottinghamshire 30,46. Nottinghamshire folio 27.*

[South] Muskham

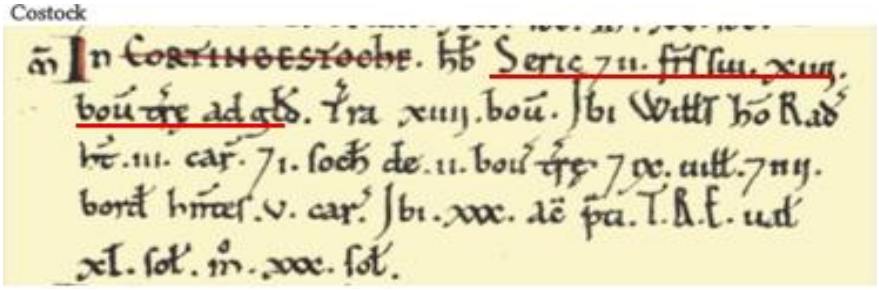


[185] Tenable is the "Gest" surname as an appellate to the personal names of evidenced-backed patriline members of Saeric's family found in records otherwise not including the family name. Tenable because the evidence subsequently submitted defends the decision who which the arguments or positions submitted are considered by the present author as sound and logical but still open to debate.

Costock Manor, Nottinghamshire 1066

Reference is made to Særic's brother in Domesday Book 1086 for the year 1066, for the place Costock Manor, Broxtowe, Nottinghamshire. It states Særic was Lord of the Manor of Costock, and Tenant in Chief was Ralph of Buron. His brothers, plural, known as "Gest": [186]

Costock



Shire	Phil. ref.	Vill	DB Spelling	Holder 1066	Lord 1066	Tenant-in-Chief 1086
Leicestershire	17,33	Ragdale	Seric	Særic 'of Ragdale'	-	Robert de Bucy
Nottinghamshire	**15,5**	**Costock**	**Seric**	**Særic 'of Ragdale'**	-	**Ralph de Buron**

Little Missenden Manor, Berkshire 1066

Particularly noteworthy are the properties in 1066 near Queen Edith (Eadgyth), the wife of the Confessor, which were owned by her nephew Saeric. These properties are situated in North Marston and Little Missenden, the latter being close to Edith and Edward's Manor in Amersham in 1066. Saeric listed as "Sigeraed" man refers to his brother, Sigeraed [Gest] [II] Canon of Dover, Kent, rather than their similarly named father associated with Chilham, Kent, and Guestling Manor and the Manor of Applesham, Combe, West Sussex.

The record for Little Missenden further link Saeric and his brother to their mother, Ælfgyva, noting "Sigeraed son of Ælfgifu, thegn of Edward, King." Additionally, evidence reveals that King Edward the Confessor is not only the brothers Gest' uncle by marriage, but also a blood relative through an alternative lineage along their ascending patriline. Notably, PASE Doomsday's preliminary analysis of these records found their author falling into the trap misinterpretation of their mother's Saxon name, leading to the spelling, which remains uncorrected:

Holder 1066

Shire	Phil. ref.	Vill	DB Spelling	Holder 1066	Lord 1066	Tenant-in-Chief 1086
Buckinghamshire	23,17	North Marston	Seric	Særic, the man of Beorhtric	Beorhtric, man of Queen Eadgyth	Miles Crispin
Buckinghamshire	**36,1**	**Little Missenden**	**Seric**	**Særic, the man of Sigeræd**	**Sigeræd son of Ælfgifu, thegn of Edward, king**	**Thurstan Mantel**

[186] Open Domesday, "Costock", Lords in 1066: Saeric; Saeric's brothers. Nottinghamshire folio 21. https://opendomesday.org/place/SK5726/costock/.

Alvescot Manor, Oxfordshire in 1086

Saeric's manor Alvescot, draws large for further attention after reading "A History of County Oxford: Volume 15, Brampton Hundred, (Part Three).[187] Below is the relevant extract with original footnotes and their authors citation intact:

MANORS AND OTHER ESTATES

In the late Anglo-Saxon period, all or part of Alvescot belonged probably to the large royal manor of Bampton, which was gradually broken up. (fn. 1) By the mid-11th century most of the later parish was divided among three manors of between 2 and 4 hides each, which became merged into a single Alvescot manor by the mid-14th century. From the 1360s to the Dissolution, it was owned by Edington monastery in Wiltshire, passing thereafter to a number of mostly non-resident owners; from the 17th century it was gradually diminished by sales and enfranchisement of holdings, resulting in the creation of some sizeable freeholds owned by minor local gentry, and by the mid-19th century, when still held with manorial rights, it comprised under 300 acres. The only other significant early estates were the so-called manor of Puttes, owned in the Middle Ages by Cirencester abbey, and a small glebe of under 30 a. belonging to the rector. (fn. 2) The following account traces the main manors and estates, and the houses on which they were centred.

Alvescot Manor

The manor of Alvescot, which included the site of the church, was held in 1066 by Goda, and in 1086, as 2 hides, by the English thegn Saeric, with whose other lands it passed before the early 12th century to Richard de la Mare (fl. 1108 X 1123). (fn. 3) In the late 12th century it was held by another Richard de la Mare, succeeded before 1198 by his son Henry. (fn. 4) A relative, Odo de la Mare, may have claimed some right in the early 13th century, when part of a yardland was allegedly held of his gift. (fn. 5) Then and presumably earlier the manor, with Saeric's lands in Oxfordshire, Wiltshire, and Gloucestershire, was held in chief by serjeanty of acting as usher for the king's hall, or in 1242 of providing a knight to guard the king's treasury, (fn. 6) one of several similar serjeanties in the Bampton area which presumably originated as services on the royal demesne before the Conquest. (fn. 7) The service was still recorded c. 1300, but the manor was held in chief in 1351 as ¼ knight's fee, and in 1401–2 (when greatly enlarged) as ½ fee. (fn. 8)

Footnotes

1. *VCH Oxon.* XIII, 22 sqq; above, intro. (boundaries); below, relig. hist. (church: origins).
2. Below; for glebe, below, relig. hist. (church: endowment).
3. *VCH Oxon.* I, 387, 423; Blair, *A-S Oxon.* 176; below, relig. hist. (church: origins).
4. *Oseney Cart.* IV, pp. 498–9; *Book of Fees*, I, 11.
5. *Cur. Reg.* VII, 248; cf. M. Devine (ed.), *Cartulary of Cirencester Abbey*, III (1977), pp. 987–9.
6. *Book of Fees*, I, 11, 51, 589; II, 830; J.H. Round, *King's Serjeanties and Officers of State* (1911), 108; *VCH Glos.* VI, 180.
7. Cf. *VCH Oxon.* XIII, 13, 68.
8. *Edington Cart.* pp. 154, 171; *Cal. Inq. p. m.* IX, p. 402.
9. *Book of Fees*, I, 589; *Cur. Reg.* XVI, p. 120.
10. *Book of Fees*, II, 830, 1376; *Cur. Reg.* XIII, p. 576; *Eynsham Cart.* I, p. 177; *Edington Cart.* p. 151.
11. *Cur. Reg.* XVI, p. 120.
12. *Cal. Inq. p.m.* I, pp. 35, 46.

[187] Christina Colvin, Carol Cragoe, Veronica Ortenberg, R B Peberdy, Nesta Selwyn, Elizabeth Williamson (2006, p18). 'Alvescot: Manors and Other Estates', in A History of the County of Oxford: Volume 15, Bampton Hundred (Part Three), ed. Simon Townley (London, 2006). Available online by British History: https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/oxon/vol15/pp18-23..

1086 (Saeric 6) - Tenant-in-Chief 1086 demesne estates (no subtenants)

Like his brother, Sigeraed Gest [II], Cannon of Dover, a thegn of his uncle, Edward the Confessor in 1066, Saeric also a King's thegn by the year 1086 under William I:

Shire	Phil. ref.	Vill	DB Spelling	Holder 1066	Lord 1066	Tenant-in-Chief 1086
Hampshire	69,27	Enham Alamein	Sariz	Alwine 'of Enham Alamein'	Edward, king	Særic, king's thegn
Nottinghamshire	30,46	South Muskham	Sericus	Svartbrandr 'of South Muskham'	-	Særic, king's thegn
Oxfordshire	**58,21**	**Alvescot**	**Saric**	**Goda 'of Alvescot'**	**-**	**Særic, king's thegn**
Oxfordshire	58,22	Middle Aston	Saric	-	-	Særic, king's thegn

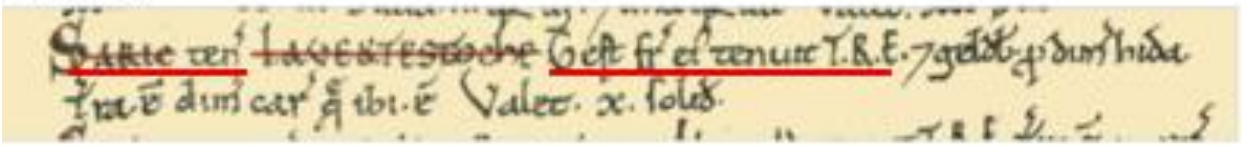
Laverstock Manor, Wiltshire 1086

Særic is further found as Lord of Laverstock, Manor, Wiltshire in 1086, and is listed as Tenant-in-Chief in 1086. He succeeded to the property left by his brother "Gest":

Shire	Phil. ref.	Vill	DB Spelling	Holder 1066	Lord 1066	Tenant-in-Chief 1086
Wiltshire	67,95	Winterbourne	Saric	Alwine 'of Winterbourne'	-	Særic, king's thegn
Wiltshire	**67,96**	**Laverstock**	**Saric**	**Gest 'of Laverstock'**	**-**	**Særic, king's thegn**

Two points come to mind, first his brother was likely to be older, and second, and known from other evidence it is certain to be Sigeraed Gest. He joined the church as a cleric circa 1063 and, if he held land would be required to relinquish them to qualify as a cleric:[188]

Laverstock



[188] Open Domesday 1086, Tenant-in-Chief and Lord Særic, Lord in 1066, Gest, brother of Særic. Wiltshire folio 20. https://opendomesday.org/place/SU1530/laverstock/.

Saeric's son, Godmund in Domesday 1066

PASE Domesday's expert Domesday Book, digital analysists, make absolute the link between Godmund Gest as "Godmund 5" directly tied to his father Saeric described by PASE as "Saeric 2". Godmund Gest (c. 1050-aft. 1086), per se, is the presumptive positive father of Benwoldus Gest (c. 1080- Aft. 1141), who is known to records to be a resident in Sussex as an adult during the period 1110 to 1141. The table above marked "Saeric 2" shows what Saeric held in the area in 1066 and that he was the father of Dodmun. The table below is for the lame lands held in 1086, but not by Saeric, rather his son Godmund:

Godmund 5

Subtenant in 1086

Shire	Phil. ref.	Vill	DB Spelling	Holder 1066	Lord 1066	Tenant-in-Chief 1086	1086 Subtenant
Herefordshire	10,51	Birley	Godmund	Særic father of Godmund	Harold, earl	Roger de Lacy	Godmund son of Særic
Herefordshire	10,53	Swanstone	Godmund	Særic father of Godmund	-	Roger de Lacy	Godmund son of Særic
Herefordshire	10,71	Marston Stannett	Godmundus	Særic father of Godmund	-	Roger de Lacy	Godmund son of Særic

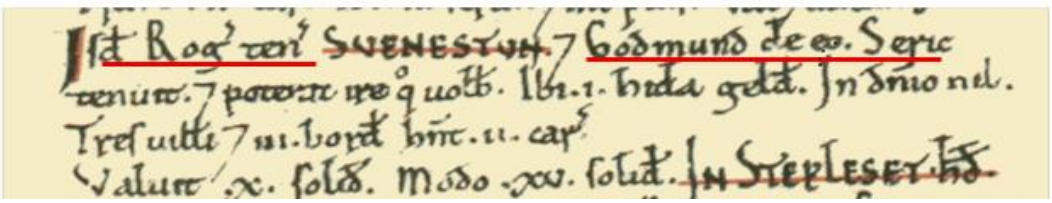
Sub-subtenant in 1086

Shire	Phil. ref.	Vill	DB Spelling	Holder 1066	Lord 1066	Tenant-in-Chief 1086	1086 Subtenant
Herefordshire	**1,17**	**Sarnesfield**	**Saeric**	**Særic father of Godmund**	-	**William, king**	**Roger de Lacy**

All four estates above were held by Særic Gest in 1066 in the time of Confessor (TRE), and they lay in close proximity to one another. In 1086 three of the four were held by Roger de Lacy in 1086.

At Sarnesfield, Herefordshire, Roger de Lacy is named as the subtenant tenant and Saeric continued to hold it. Further attached to the record by alternative source is the record Saeric son in 1086 holds [three of four as sub-tenant and he] presumably the same Godmund rendered 5 shillings to the manor of Leominster in 1086 (GDB 130a (Herefordshire 1:10b). [mine]. [189] [190] [191]

Swanstone



[189] PASE Domesday analysts for "Godmund 5" cite: K. S. B. Keats-Rohan, Domesday People: A Prosopography of Persons Occurring in English Documents 1066–1166: Domesday Book (Woodbridge, 1999).
[190] Open Domesday record and image for Sarnesfield. Holder 1086: Saeric father of Godmund. Phillimore reference: Herefordshire 10,53. Hereford folio. 12.
[191] Sarnesfield Hereford is 38 mile or 39 miles northeast of nearby Tewkesbury about the same distant directly south from Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

Særic brother "Gest", in Domesday 1066

Further evidence Saeric had at a brother of a personal name Gest is found in Open Domesday for the property held by Gest at Laverstock in 1066 and that property then came to Saeric before 1086. Saeric further identified as having brothers' plural in the Open Domesday record which is Saeric's manor and land in Costock, Nottinghamshire, where by it is written:[192]

> *Costock was a settlement in Domesday Book, in the hundred of Broxtowe and the county of Nottinghamshire. It had a recorded population of 19.5 households in 1086, and is listed under 4 owners in Domesday Book.*
>
> *Land of Ralph of Buron. Households: 9 villagers. 1 freeman. 4 smallholders. Land and resources: Ploughland: 1.8 ploughlands. 3 lord's plough teams. 5 men's plough teams. Other resources: Meadow 30 acres. Annual value to lord: 1 pound 10 shillings in 1086; 2 pounds in 1066.Owners: Tenant-in-chief in 1086: Ralph of Buron. Lord in 1086: William. Lords in 1066: Saeric; Saeric's brothers. Other information: Phillimore reference: Nottinghamshire 15,5. Nottinghamshire folio 21.*

Saeric's Brother Sigeraed/Sired of Chilham, Canon of Dover, Kent 1066

Certain identification is made for one of Saeric's brothers (presumed two), Sigeraed/Sired of Chilham, Canon of Dover and brother "Gest" in Domesday Book. Also, in Domesday and other authoritative historical documents, Sigeraed also known as Sired of Chilham is recognised as the son Sibi of Chilham and Aleuea. Mother Aleuea translated by PASE and Open Domesday experts to also mean the same with the Old English (OE) Anglo-Saxon spelling, Ælfgifu and Ælfgyva (OE).

Brother Gest and certain father of Sired, Sibi of Chilham both disappear from record after the 1066 Domesday Book entry and may have perished in one of the battles during the epic year of conflict and conquest 1066. Sibi however survives in historical research from other documentation and reconstructions published for clergy of St Martin's Dover, Kent, as does Sired of Chilham, Cannon of Dover and his son Deoring, also a Cannon of Dover from 1066, and also appearing in Domesday as the son of Sired/Sigeraed of Chilham.

A subsequent record indicates that the Sired and Gest's brother Saeric, certain son of Aleuea - and like Sired and Sibi – found by record in the same community and land holding orbit in 1066 as their mother Aleuea's brother, Earl Harold.

Saeric as Lord of the Manor in Domesday citation in 1066 with over lords held land at Laverstock, Wiltshire and Little Missenden elsewhere and by 1086 held a larger more substantial lot granted by William I to him in freehold. This was relatively rare for subjects to receive this honor and especially rare for an Anglo-Saxon surviving landholder. Suggesting after the conquest Saeric won the favour of the King, Conqueror William.

It is reasonable to consider as a working familiar, and prima facie by strengthening evidence to follow, Sired/Sigeraed of Chilham first born son of Sibi of Chilham and Aleuea, Saeric second of at least three sons, and probably only three with youngest brother Gest alive in 1066 and likely to have perished that same year. All three brothers, until otherwise advised by recovery of counter paternal evidence, all three sons are from Sibi of Chilham who be baron record post 1066 perished also that year.

[192] Domesday data created by Professor J.J.N. Palmer and team. Hull University.

It is further made clear by Searle's 1899 research vetted and verified in 2004 by Woods and also by Barbara Yorke, Sibi's presumed wife or concubine, wife, Aleuea/Ælfgyva/Ælfgifu, Earl Harol's sister by Domesday Book record also is the daughter of Godwin and Gytha.

By deduction, Sired's and Gest's brother Saeric is believed to have died in 1107/8, based on John Horace Round's 1911 research, which suggests that his land holdings in Herefordshire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, and Wiltshire were transferred to the de La Mere family in 1108.[193] Round speculated that Saeric (Latin: "Saricus") served as an "Usher of King's Hall," as such positions were often inherited when the de La Mere family acquired land.

However, the present author argues that it may be too convenient to assert Saeric held this position in the King's court 1107/8, especially considering the genealogical evidence that later emerged. It likely that Saeric, a certain thegn of William I, was the outright owner of estates according to other evidence, and upon his death, his final recorded in a yet unrecovered will presumably directed that his estates be converted to cash, so to speak, and distributed as intended.

This would explain how the de La Mere family came to acquire it through a private agreement sanctioned by Saeric's executor. The Crown was likely consulted prior to this, wanting recognize in some practical way that Saeric was the rightful owner since approximately 1067, continuing until his death around 1107/8, making future holders the Ushers of the King's Hall.

We can distinguish further between Særic's elder brother and his father of the same birth name by their appellations and whilst both born in or very nearby to the village of Hastings, South Sussex, and bearing the same name, these two generationally separated Sigeraed's, share also the same nick name, "Sired" but distinction in record is made when they each reached adult age vested with geographical, and/or geographical additions to their names.

Open Domesday confirms Sired/Sigeraed with other evidence coupled making him Sired/Sigeraed of Chilham, Cannon of Dover, Kent, son of Sibi, son of Aeleva and brother of Saeric. He is also linked through Saeric to be the likely full brother of Gest, which has to be considered not as a surname but personal name. Made by inference with no contested evidence found they are all full brothers and sons of both Ælfgyva, spelled incorrectly below, garbled as Ælfgifu (his aunt), and also as Aleuea spouse which is presumed by the further Domesday book record making her certain son Sired the certain son of Sibi of Chilham.

The tables presented on the following page support findings, allowing for a distinction between the subjects. Additionally, consulting Dr. Ann William's research, 1995, p91; 1999, 2008, validates that the father-son duo indicated here both held land in 1066, particularly in the general regions of East Sussex and the Kent border area, suggesting that regular visits were likely unimpeded by distance.

The following pages contain the Domesday Book landholdings records, where he is further recognised in PASE Domesday Sired (Sigeraed), 4, 6 & 8, referring to Sigeraed, son of Sibi of Chilham and he Sired found to a Canon of St Paul's London and later Canon of Dover, Kent.

The evidence gathered and subsequently submitted, despite missing birth and marriage records, does attests to a sufficiently trustworthy and accurate reconstitution of the three brothers Sired

[193] Round, J. H. (1911, pp. 108-111). The King's Serjeants & Officers of State, with their Coronation Services.

(Sigeraed) of Chilham, Saeric and Gest that the study may advance beyond them without the benefit of applying patronymic to them or their patrilineal ancestors.[194]

The immediate set of Domesday book records makes for positive identification of Saeric and Gest's brother Sired as Sigeraed and also his paternity of Deoring as well as making known he was Cannon of St Martins Dover and also St Paul's. The same set of records distinguishes him as the son of Aleuea/Ælfgifu, a thegn of Edward the Confessor and in the land holding orbit of his mother's brother, Earl Harold:

Holder 1066 (Sigeraed 4)

Shire	Phil. ref.	Vill	DB Spelling	Holder 1066	Lord 1066	Tenant-in-Chief 1086	1086 Subtenant
Buckinghamshire	14,2	Great Kimble	Sired	Sigeræd son of Ælfgifu, thegn of King Edward	Edward, king	Walter Giffard	Hugh de Bolbec
Buckinghamshire	14,3	Great Missenden	Sired	Sigeræd son of Ælfgifu, thegn of King Edward	Edward, king	Walter Giffard	Thurstan fitzRolf
Buckinghamshire	17,5	Ditton	Sired	Sigeræd son of Ælfgifu, thegn of King Edward	Harold, earl	William fitzAnsculf	Walter 'the man of William fitzAnsculf'
Buckinghamshire	17,6	Stoke Poges	Siret	Sigeræd son of Ælfgifu [Ælfgyva], thegn of King Edward	Harold, earl	William fitzAnsculf	Walter 'the man of William fitzAnsculf'

Sigeraed, as Sired, son of Aleuea/Ælfgifu as written above, and Alueua, Earl Harold's sister, as considered PASE and Open Domesday Latin and Old English (OE) Anglo-Saxon spelling taken from hand script from the original Domesday Book, [195] is Særic's brother. The spelling and translation of Aleuea/Ælfgifu also considered to be Ælfgyva, and confirmed by the National Archives naming both brothers, the sons of Ælfgyva.

Lord 1066 (Sigeraed 4)

Shire	Phil. ref.	Vill	DB Spelling	Holder 1066	Lord 1066	Tenant-in-Chief 1086	1086 Subtenant
Buckinghamshire	12,1	Little Missenden	Syredus	Alwine 'of Little Missenden'	Sigeræd son of Ælfgifu, thegn of Edward, king	Robert, count of Mortain	Wigot 'of Little Missenden'
Buckinghamshire	14,1	Hartwell	Sired	2 men of Sigeræd	Sigeræd son of Ælfgifu, thegn of Edward, king	Walter Giffard	Hugh de Bolbec
Buckinghamshire	36,1	Little Missenden	Sired	Særic, the man of Sigeræd	Sigeræd son of Ælfgifu, thegn of Edward, king	Thurstan Mantel	-

194 Attachment A - Reconstructing kinship groups through records triangulation: A methodological framework for family reconstitution.

195 PASE Domesday author for Sigeraed 4's land holdings in Buckinghamshire, elected to use the corrupted spelling of his mother's name, listing her with her popular distractor spelling, "Ælfgifu".

Noting above Saeric, the man of Sigeraed likely to refer to him as attending to property haled by his older brother as a Lord. Below is confirmation of his Sired (Siredus / Sigeraed of Chilham, Cannon of Dover's dual clergy position as a Cannon of St Paul's London:

(Sigeraed 6).

Shire	Phil. ref.	Vill	DB Spelling	Holder 1066	Lord 1066	Tenant-in-Chief 1086	1086 Subtenant
Middlesex	15,1	Stepney	Sired	Sigeræd the canon of St Paul's, London	-	Robert Fafiton	-
Middlesex	15,1	Stepney	Sired	Sigeræd the canon of St Paul's, London	-	Robert Fafiton	Roger the sheriff
Middlesex	3,2	Stepney	Siredus	Sigeræd the canon of St Paul's, London	William, bishop of London	Maurice, bishop of London	Hugh de Bernières

The next Domesday record whilst not naming Sired's father shows from other records to be Sibi of Chilham, Canon of St Margaret's at Cliffe, his father was also a cleric/cannon:

Holder 1066 (Sigeraed 8)

Shire	Phil. ref.	Vill	DB Spelling	Holder 1066	Lord 1066	Tenant-in-Chief 1086	1086 Subtenant
Kent	M6	St Margaret's at Cliffe	Sired	Unnamed father of Sigeræd	unnamed canons of Dover	Unnamed canons of Dover in 1086	Sigeræd, canon of Dover
Kent	P1	Dover	Sired	Unnamed canons of Dover in 1066	-	Unnamed canons of Dover in 1086	Sigeræd, canon of Dover

In 1086, it was noted that he Sigeraed, hereafter referred to as "Sired of Chilham", Cannon of Dover,[196] [197] began his service around 1063 as one of the many Cannons of Dover before moving to St. Paul's in London during the later years of the Confessor's reign.

He returned then returned to Dover during the same period and, after 1066, was appointed as a senior Cannon of St. Martin's Dover within the Battle Abbey diocese established by William I.

[196] He and his father, both named "Sigeraed," are sometimes referred to "Sired" by modern translators or interpreters of the original handwritten records from PASE and Open Domesday, which is a shortened form or nickname derived from "Sigeraed."
[197] National Archives, Sigeraed of Chilham, St Martin's Dover, E - Records of the Exchequer, and its related bodies, with those of the Office of First Fruits and Tenths, and the Court of Augmentations; Division within E - Records of the Treasury of the Receipt; E 31 - Exchequer: Treasury of the Receipt: Domesday Book etc; E 31/2/1 - Great Domesday: Kent, Sussex.
197 Barlow, F. (1979). The English Church 1000–1066: A History of the Later Anglo-Saxon Church, 2nd Edition, Whereby, Deoring son of Sigeræd, had a small estate of ½ suling and ½ yoke on the coast at Deal. In the St Augustine's Excerpts, the name appears as Diryng, suggesting that it was Dyring rather than Deoring, though it is not clear that the excerpts should be given priority over GDB. Deoring was a canon of the important royal church of St Martin, down the coast at Dover, and a member of a clerical dynasty (Barlow 1979: 133): his father Sigeræd held two of the church's manors TRE (Kent M:3, 22) and Sigeræd's father one (Kent M:6). That makes Deoring a young man in 1066, but, unlike his father (Kent M:6), he did not survive as a canon in 1086.

It is believed Sired commenced his canonship just before 1064, likely in 1063, and served in papal duties until his unknown death after 1086, navigating the tumultuous Norman invasion and the subsequent period his family was fated.

This strongly suggests that he played a key and pivotal role in coordinating between the Conqueror and the surviving members of the reconstituted[198] Godwin-Wessex family, working as a messenger for Edgar II during his brief reign from October to December 1066, while also handling pap correspondence with Rome to assist the Conqueror, alongside his grandfather and surviving brother Saeric well settled in the mid-west of England.[199]

Saeric's Nephew, Cannon Deoring of St Martin, Dover, Kent in 1066

Canon Deoring is the son of Sired, who in turn is son of Sibi of Chilham, who is further recognised also as senior Canon of St Martin, Dover, Kent making for clergy familia dynasty. Deoring is the paternal cousin of Godmund, Saeric's son as recorded in the Great Domesday Book (GDB).

By 1086, these manors had into lay ownership; however, his father, Sigeraed (Sired) of Chilham, Cannon of Dover, brother of Særic Gest (Deoring's uncle), still retained property during that time. Additional evidence indicates that by 1066 Deoring was a junior Canon at St Martin, Dover, Kent.[200] [201]

The question that arises is whether cleric Deoring could be one of the two clerics, known as "Swan neck who searched for Harold's lifeless body on October 14, 1066 by the direction of the Conqueror, wanting to confirm the person he believed to be the dead Harold was actually him.

The present author speculates this might be the case, suggesting that the other cleric could be his father, Sired, or alternatively Sired and his father the cleric, Sibi, reconstituted to be Aleuea/Aelfgyva spouse. Aleuea/Aelfgyva the certain mother of Sired and Saeric and the the certain sister of Harold II, as Earl Harold.

According to the Domesday Book (DB), in 1066, Deoring, son of Sired, owned a small estate called "St Martin", in Kent, which comprised half a suling and half a yoke on the coast at. While the St Augustine's Excerpts refer to him as Dyring, the author prefers the spelling Deoring, as the excerpts may not take precedence over the state record, Domesday Book 1086.

Frank Barlow (1979, p. 133) notes that 1066, Deoring was young of the significant royal church of St. Martin in Dover, Kent. This suggests that his appointment may have been arranged by his grandfather, was likely a senior canon of the same church in 1066, as by church land listed in the Domesday Book of 1086.

[198] Attachment A - Reconstructing kinship groups through records triangulation: A methodological framework for family reconstitution.

[199] National Archives, Sigeraed of Chilham, St Martin's Dover, E - Records of the Exchequer, and its related bodies, with those of the Office of First Fruits and Tenths, and the Court of Augmentations; Division within E - Records of the Treasury of the Receipt; E 31 - Exchequer: Treasury of the Receipt: Domesday Book etc; E 31/2/1 - Great Domesday: Kent, Sussex.

[200] Barlow, F. (1979, p. 133). The English Church 1000–1066: A History of the Later Anglo-Saxon Church, 2nd Edition.

[201] Presumptive positive identification for the son of Siward of Grossus, father of Siward of Chilham, father od Sibbi of Chilham father of Sired/Sigeraed of Chilham. Thereby considered to be the patriline ancestors also of Sired/Sigeraed's brothers Saeric and Gest. Saeric also known in Domesday to be of the same mother of Sired, Aleuea/Aelfgyva. Reconstitution of the lineage further includes Sired's son Deoring, also a Cannon of Dover, and Saeric's son Godmund made also correct by Domesday Book and Dr Ann Willliams 1995, page 91 family ties reconstruction.

It is reasonable to assume that Deoring's father and grandfather ensured that the young man, probably around 15 years old became a junior canon for his, as they were well aware of the impending Norman invasion, thus providing him with sanctuary and parental protection within the St. Martin parish of Dover, Kent, in 1066.

This infers Doering's canonship may have been constructed by his father for his son’s survival rather than faithful servitude, as his father, Canon Sigeraed, was likely well-informed about the invasion plans and logistics, as well as the pope's support.

It is further reasonable to surmise that both father and son, as canons, operated under the watchful guidance of the senior canon to maintain their loyalty to the Church of Rome, considering their familial ties to Harold II as blood nephew and grandnephew.

The current analysis of the family's connections to the church, particularly their ties to the House of Wessex, indicates that Canon Sigeraed likely knew the whereabouts of his brother Saeric and grandfather Siward Gest, who were in the West Midlands of England at the time.

Additionally, he would have been aware of Edgar the Atheling and his sisters, Princesses Margaret and Christina, as well as the former Queen Edith (Ædgyth), widow of the Confessor, after January 5, 1066. This Queen Edith (Ædgyth) was Edgar's ward he turned 15 years old, just prior to October 1066. likely knew all of their locations before and after October 14, 1066, the day of the Battle of Hastings.

The same can be said for Canon's knowledge of the whereabouts of his grandmother, Countess Gytha, and his aunt, Edith another Queen as Harold’s wife. She was the sister-in-law of the Queen Edith (Ædgyth), along with her and's sister, Ælfgyva, the Canon and Saeric's, and Siward Gest's daughter-in-law.

This suggests he have been aware of Harold's movements leading up his army's march to Stamford Bridge prior to the Norman invasion. There at Stamford Bridge in September he defeated the Norwegian Harald Hardrada, supported by Harold’s brother Tostig who died at the Battle.[202]

The author supposes that if he did know all of this information, which he likely did as a close family member, he would have kept it from his son, the junior Canon Doering, to avoid complicating the situation, but not from the most senior Canon of Dover, who doubtless conveyed it to Pope Alexander II.

Additionally, research by Barlow indicates that Deoring was not a canon by 1086, further supported by the Great Domesday Book (GDB), but this does not necessarily imply his death; he may well have left the church shortly after William I was crowned.

[202] Bailey, A (2025). Edith, the last Anglo Saxon Queen of England. “Edith, the first recorded owner of the Manor of Amersham.” Amersham Museum, Buckinghamshire.

Saeric's likely grandson Benwoldus and his grandson John de Guestling both of Sussex

This suggests that Benwoldus Gest, an adult between 1100 and 1141 from Sussex, the son of Godmund, and brother of Gilbert "The Stranger"[203] is the grandson of Saeric and grandnephew of Sigeraed Gest, the younger.

Additionally, other evidence indicates that Benwoldus Gest is likely grandfather of John de Guestling, specifically of Guestling near the new Hastings village, who was an adult in 1208 and is historically noted for losing part of his land due to the great flood in the Breda Valley[204] that affected portions of the hundred of Guestling that same year. [205]

Deoring's father cleric Sigeræd Gest, Canon of the Battle Abbey Diocese, held two of the church's manors TRE (GBD, Kent M:3, 22) and Sigeræd's father, Sigeraed of Chilham one in Kent (GDB, Kent M:6). That fact dispels perhaps the Swan neck, was Edith, Harold's widow, and rather Swan neck, Harold's sister Ælfgyva Gest.

Deoring's father, Sired/Sigeraed of Chilham, Kent

Domesday Book records for 1066, reveals Deoring's father Sigeraed of Chilham Kent (c. 1012-aft. 1066), possessed jurisdictional rights in eastern Kent and the city of Canterbury, and he is likely the same man Sired (Sigeraed) taken to be a senior Cannon of St Martin, Dover Kent in 1066

This Sigeraed is associated with the valuable (£40) manor of Chilham and likely same Sigeraed connected to Wickhambreux, Eastling, Luddenham, and Pineham-all of which, like Chilham, were significant properties in eastern Kent. This accords with Ann Williams recognition of him as a magnate of east Kent.

He had forfeited most of his lands including the manor of Applesham, Combes, West Sussex, some distance west of the village of Hastings. Succinctly presented below are his manors and lands known to the first Anglo-Norman state document, Domesday Book 1086. PASE Domesday lists him as Sigeraed of Chilham, Kent, Saeric 2, 4 & 6 (only):

[203] Surmising here that Gilbert the Stranger is the root person giving credence to the root theory that the Guest surname tied to Guest has a connection to the historical meaning of the term "stranger".

[204] PRO SC61102115, m. 2 and subsequent accounts refer to land of John de Guestling then submerged by the sea.

[205] Gardiner, M. (1995, p. 130). Medieval Farming & Flooding in the Brede-Valley, South East Sussex, Romney Marsh - The Debatable Ground, ed. J. Eddison, OUCA Monograph 41,1995.

Holder 1066 (Sigeraed 3)

Shire	Phil. ref.	VCH	DB Spelling	Holder 1066	Lord 1066	Tenant-in-Chief 1086	1086 Subtenant
Kent	5,124	Wickhambreux	Sived	Sigeraed of Chilham	Aldred Bleen	Odo, bishop of Bayeux	Geoffrey fitz Malisoera
Kent	5,144	Chilham	Sived	Sigeraed of Chilham	Edward, king	Odo, bishop of Bayeux	Fulbert 'of Barham'
Kent	5,144	Canterbury	Sived	Sigeraed of Chilham	Edward, king	Odo, bishop of Bayeux	Fulbert 'of Barham'
Kent	5,159	Eastling	Sived	Sigeraed of Chilham	Edward, king	Odo, bishop of Bayeux	Fulbert 'of Barham'
Kent	5,160	Luddenham	Sived	Sigeraed of Chilham	Edward, king	Odo, bishop of Bayeux	Fulbert 'of Barham'
Kent	5,174	Piring	Sived	Sigeraed of Chilham	-	Odo, bishop of Bayeux	Hugh de Port
Kent	5,214	Elmton	Sived	Sigeraed of Chilham	Edward, king	Odo, bishop of Bayeux	Osbert 'of Marshborough'
Kent	D17	-	Sive	Sigeraed of Chilham	-	-	-
Kent	MG2	Farthinghoe	Sived	Sigeraed of Chilham	Unnamed canons of Dover	Unnamed canons of Dover in 1086	William fitzGeoffrey
Kent	MG	Charlton	Sived	Sigeraed of Chilham	Unnamed canons of Dover	Unnamed canons of Dover in 1086	William fitzOger

Holder 1066 (Sigeraed 3)

Shire	Phil. ref.	Vill	DB Spelling	Holder 1066	Lord 1066	Tenant-in-Chief 1086	1086 Subtenant
Kent	5,124	Wickhambreux	Sired	Sigeraed of Chilham	Alfred Biota	Odo, bishop of Bayeux	Geoffrey fitz Malisoera
Kent	5,144	Chilham	Sired	Sigeraed of Chilham	Edward, king	Odo, bishop of Bayeux	Fulbert 'of Barham'
Kent	5,144	Canterbury	Sired	Sigeraed of Chilham	Edward, king	Odo, bishop of Bayeux	Fulbert 'of Barham'
Kent	5,159	Ensling	Sired	Sigeraed of Chilham	Edward, king	Odo, bishop of Bayeux	Fulbert 'of Barham'
Kent	5,160	Luddenham	Sired	Sigeraed of Chilham	Edward, king	Odo, bishop of Bayeux	Fulbert 'of Barham'
Kent	5,174	Preing	Sired	Sigeraed of Chilham	-	Odo, bishop of Bayeux	Hugh de Port
Kent	5,214	Hunton	Sired	Sigeraed of Chilham	Edward, king	Odo, bishop of Bayeux	Osbert 'of Marshborough'
Kent	D17	-	Siret	Sigeraed of Chilham	-	-	-
Kent	M2	Farthinglow	Sired	Sigeraed of Chilham	Unnamed canons of Dover	Unnamed canons of Dover in 1086	William fitzGeoffrey
Kent	M3	Charlton	Sired	Sigeraed of Chilham	Unnamed canons of Dover	Unnamed canons of Dover in 1086	William fitzOger

Holder 1066 (Sigeraed 5)

Shire	Phil. ref.	Vill	DB Spelling	Holder 1066	Lord 1066	Tenant-in-Chief 1086	1086 Subtenant
Cambridgeshire	26,31	Malbourn	Sired	Sigeraed 'of Chilhull'	Ælfgar, earl	Hardwin de Scales	Durand the man of Hardwin de Scales
Essex	20,72	Chilhill	Saredus	Sigeraed 'of Chilhull'	-	Eustace, count	Guy d'Anjou
Hertfordshire	37,14	Wyddial	Sired	Sigeraed 'of Chilhull'	Harold, earl	Hardwin de Scales	-
Hertfordshire	37,8	Reed	Siret	Sigeraed 'of Chilhull'	Harold, earl	Hardwin de Scales	-

Holder 1086 (Sigeraed 9)

Shire	Phil. ref.	Vill	DB Spelling	Holder 1066	Lord 1066	Tenant-in-Chief 1086	1086 Subtenant
Hampshire	21,9	Newtimber	Sired	Sigeraed 'of Newtimber'	Harold, earl	Roger, earl	Sigeraed 'of Newtimber'
Hampshire	23,35	Brockhampton	Sired	Sigeraed 'of Newtimber'	Harold, earl	Hugh de Port	Herbert the chamberlain
Sussex	11,115	Boxgrove	Siret	Sigeraed 'of Newtimber'	-	Roger, earl	Steward 'Boxgrove'

This Sired/Sigeraed tied to Earl Harold by Domesday Book record for the Vill of New Timber in 1066, making for the possible familiar connection to his prospect uncle Earl Harold, prospect brother it seems to Sigeraed/Sired's mother Aleuea.[206]

Subtenant in 1086 (Sigeraed 9)

Shire	Phil. ref.	Vill	DB Spelling	Holder 1066	Lord 1066	Tenant-in-Chief 1086	1086 Subtenant
Hampshire	21,9	Newtimber	Sired	Sigeræd 'of Newtimber'	Harold, earl	Roger, earl	Sigeræd 'of Newtimber'

Untangling the patriline latent among several prominent Siwards'

PASE Domesday reveals initial table of landholdings attributed to "Siward 4" [207] in 1066, as noted in the Great Domesday Book, primarily identifying holder as "Siward Barn." [208] Both Siward Barn and Siward Grossus[209] are notable figures landholdings are further listed by PASE in a grouped table and very well represented th number of listings.[210] Further represented in the larger grouped table for all known "Siward's' of GDB is more likely to be th figure Siward Grossus (The Fat) rather than any other Siward including Siward the Barn or Siward Bishop of Rochester, likely distractors.

This study identifies Siward Bishop of Rochester in Kent, as distinct from Siward Barn and synonymous with Siward of Chilham, Kent, who passed away in 1075.

Several of his properties are listed in PASE Domesday under "Siward" the, son of "Æthelgar," and Dr. Ann Williams reconstruction making this Siward, Siward Grossus. The author concurs with Williams' analysis, which readers may find reliable and further references in this book will clarify that Siward, brother of Ealdred and son of Æthelgar, is indeed the same Siward the Fat (Grossus) of Shropshire and Siward Gest, the Bishop of Rochester, Kent.

This is altogether consistent with the Anglo-Norman writer Orderic Vitalis, when describing William the Conqueror's stay at Barking, says that Morcar, formerly Earl of Northumbria, and Edwine, Earl of Mercia, came and submitted to King William, followed by Copsi, Earl of Northumbria, along with Thurkill of Limis, Eadric the Wild,[211] and "Ealdred and Siward, the sons of Æthelgar, grandsons [or grand-nephews] (pronepotes) of King Edward".[212]

[206] Harold as King Harold II's primary residence in 1066 was Arundel Castle, which he inherited from his father Godwin and coming to him after King Alfred bequeathed the castle in his will to his nephew, Athelm. The land succession path to Godwin remains obscure but is doubtless where the children of Godwin and Gotha are thought to have been raised. See Elwes, D.G.C & Robinson, C. J. (1876, p. 15). A History of the Castles, Mansions, and Manors of Western Sussex.
[207] PASE Domesday, as the person, "Siward 4." Description: Siward Barn, fl. 1066. https://pase.ac.uk/domesday/person/38752/.
[208] PASE Domesday, as the person, "Siward". Description various with Siward Barn, and Siward the "Fat" (Grossus). https://pase.ac.uk/domesday/name/947/
[209] Williams (1995, p91), Chibnall (1969, p195) and Guest (2006) all make for a positive identity match between Siward, Ealdred's brother being and Siward Grossus and NOT Siward Barn, c.f. Guest (2026), Siward Grossus father of Siward of Chilham, father of Sibbi of Chilham – north anchor Siward Grossus the same as Dr Ann Williams, Siward son of Ethelgar, and Siward Grossus of cognatic royal descent from Ethelred II and Edith of York..
[210] PASE Domesday, as the person, "Siward". Description various with Siward, Bishop of Rochester, Kent" well represented. https://pase.ac.uk/domesday/name/947/
[211] Williams A (1991, p91), makes in her genealogical table for Edric Streona, that his grandson, Siward and Ealdred are cousins of Eadric the Wild.
[212] Chibnall, M. (1990, p. 195). The Ecclesiastical History of Orderic Vitalis; Volume II, Books III and IV.

If one is to consider Dr William's (1995, p. 91) research, and reconstructed genealogical table, it is these two ecclesial brothers Siward and Eadred, which points to Provence of Siward of Chilham (d. 1075), being the son of Siward Grossus, son of Æthelgar and brother of Ealdred the younger, Elder's senior's nephew.

Freeman in 1876 and other historians have thought that this Siward was Siward Barn, arguing that Siward must have been a descendant of Uhtred the Bold, Earl of Northumbria, and Ælfgifu, daughter of King Ethelred the Unready, King Edward's father.[213]

Historian and translator of Orderic Vitalis, Marjorie Chibnall, pointed out that this Siward is mentioned later in his Ecclesiastical History as a Shropshire landowner, in connection with the foundation of Shrewsbury Abbey.[214] This favour Williams reconstruction and weakens Freemen's opinion on the same matter.

According to Williams' 1995, page 91, family relationship reconstruction, Siward Grossus and his brother Ealdred were the sons of Æthelgar by a daughter of Eadric Streona, Ealdorman of Mercia and Eadgyth (Elgitha) Eadric Streona's wife.[215] This is where Siward's royal blood tie probably rests and cascaded down to him from his cognatic great grandparent Ethelred Ii and Edith of York.

John Worcester tells us that her name was princess "Elgitha" [216] and a subsequent daughter of King Ethelred II (Ethelred the Unready) and Queen Ælfgifu (Edith of York). These genealogical ties help to identify the name of their daughter, Edmund Irosnsides's sister and Eadric Streona, Earl of Mercia's wife. Siward Grossus and brother Ealdred's maternal grandparents.[217]

All five figures play a crucial role in defining their joint involvement within a slightly larger family cluster formed the Battle of Hastings, which sporadically included the Canon until after Wallingford, leading up to coronation of the Conqueror on December 25, 1066.

Alongside them was a close family associate, Cardinal of Canterbury Stigand, who along with the Canon, was heavily invested in the safety of the family members of the 15-year-old Edgar II's peace cabinet, which was based in Manor Amersham from October 15 until mid-December 1066.

[213] Ibid Chibnall, M. (1990). Ecclesiastical History, vol. ii, p. 194, n. 4.
[214] Ibid Chibnall, M. (1990). Ecclesiastical History, vol. ii, p. 194, n. 4.
[215] Williams, Ann (2003, p.70). Æthelred the Unready: The Ill-Counselled King. London, UK: Hambledon and London, further confirms the marriage union between Eadgyth and Eadric.
[216] "Elgitha" taken to be the same as Olde English (OE) Ælfgyð, Æðelgyð or Ealdgyð. This was used by Sir Walter Scott for a character in his novel Ivanhoe (1819) and made by prominent translators akin to Edith in modern English.
[217] Ibid, Williams A. (1995, p91). Edric Streaona's Genealogical Table.

Dr Ann Williams in 2008, p52, attempted to make clearer the familia relations between the two Siwards – Siward (Grossus) and his likely son Siward of Chilham. If not his son his nephew and son of his brother Sired the elder:

He is presumably the man addressed in two royal writs of 1035, since, although no byname is included in either, the text of one writ refers to the time 'before Æthelric was reeve and after he was reeve up to the present day'.[53] In an earlier writ, from between 1017 and 1020, Æthelric is addressed, with no byname, immediately after Æthelwine *scirman*; perhaps he had been a subordinate of Æthelwine's, and succeeded him in the shrievalty.[54]

Ælfsige *cild* does not appear again, but Sired is a frequent witness to royal and private transactions around the turn of the tenth and eleventh centuries, often in company with his brother Siward. His family can be traced back to the late tenth century, and forward to the eve of the Conquest. He and Siward (who was probably the elder) appear for the first time in 990, when Siward of Kent (*on Cent*) attended a *witan* at London, and Sired received land at Sibertswold from King Æthelred.[55] Siward attests royal diplomas until 1005 and thereafter disappears.[56] Sired, however, continues to attest both royal and private transactions until the early 1020s, and is probably the Sigered to whom King Æthelred gave lands at Hatfield and Horndon (Essex) in 1013.[57] He might be identical with Earl Sired who attests diplomas of 1019 and 1023, and sold Godersham to Archbishop Æthelnoth at some in Cnut's reign; if so, Sired *ealda* was 'a prominent and senior figure in Kent who was sometimes accorded a status commensurate with his local distinction'.[58] It has been argued already that he is the father of Ælfgar Sired's son, and grandfather of Thorgar Ælfgar's son, and either he or his brother Siward must have been the father of Siward of Chilham, who attests a grant of Cnut to Christ Church, Canterbury in 1032.[59]

This narrative by Williams gives credence to why Sibi of Chilham would call one of his sons Sired (Sigeraed).

Consulting further the research of Williams (2008, p.52)[218] clearer it becomes that Sired of Chilham the Magnate listed in GDB in 1066 in the table below by Williams, is Saeric's brother and son of Sibi of Chilham ad spouse Aleuea and should not be confused with the same named person narrative below the table, his uncle or great uncle.

The table and narrative on the same page is useful in pointing to the collateral relatives of Sired the younger. Whilst making clear the other Sired of Chilham, witness to a diploma is the son of Siward of Chilham, Sired of Chilham the youngers, grandfather:

Table 3.4: Kentish Magnates in 1066.

East Kent (GDB 1)	*West Kent (GDB 1v)*
Godric of Brabourne	Beorhtsige *cild**
Godric son of Karli	Æthelwold of Eltham
Æthelnoth *cild**	Askell of Beckenham
Esbearn bigga	Azur of Lesness
Sired of Chilham	Alwine Horne*
Thorgils	Wulfweard White*
Northmann	Oding of Horton
Azur	Leofnoth of Sutton
	Edward of Stone
	Esbearn of Chelsfield
	Wulfstan of Wateringbury
	Leofric of Wateringbury
	Osweard of Norton
	Edith of Hæselholte
	Æthelred of Yalding

*Can be identified as a landowner outside Kent.

land for 20 ploughs, and included 13 messuages in Canterbury, a church, six and a half mills, and two fisheries.[71] He may have been related to his namesake Sired, canon of Dover, who held two prebends, one consisting of a sulung at Charlton to which was attached a minster (*monasterium*) in Dover, and the other a sulung at Farthinghoe.[72] Sired of Chilham was probably the son of Siward of Chilham, a witness to a diploma of 1032.[73] He is presumably the Siward who, with his wife Matilda, gave land at Mersham to Christ Church, Canterbury, confirmed by a writ dated only 1053–1061, Siward *minister*, who attests a spurious diploma attributed to 1044, and Siward *princeps* who attests the genuine foundation charter of Waltham Abbey in 1062.[74] Siward of Chilham's antecedents must include Sired *se ealda* and his brother Siward of Kent, who attest royal and private charters at the turn of the tenth and eleventh centuries (see above).

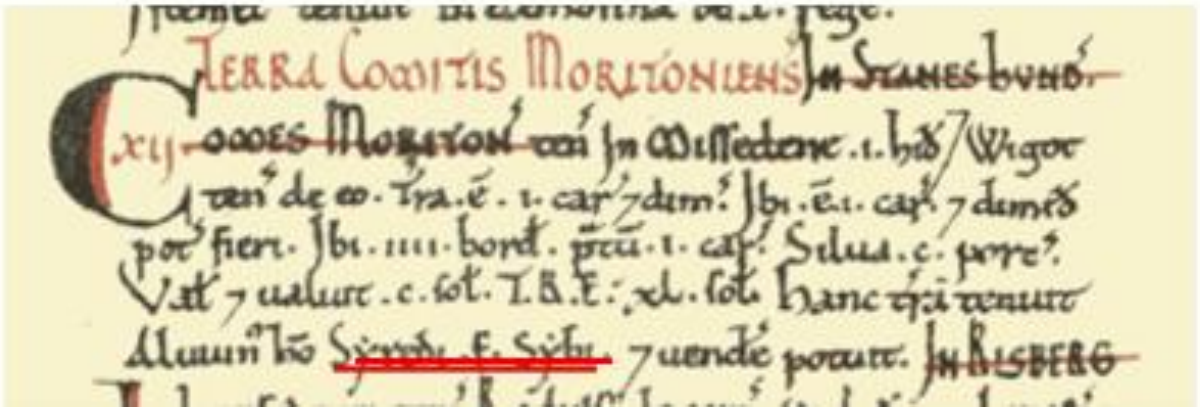
Of the others named in Domesday Book, Northmann, who held just over ten sulungs in Kent, is probably the man who held 12 hides at Camberwell (Surr.).[75] His most valuable Kentish estate was Mereworth, in Aylesford Lathe (West Kent) and Brihtwold of Mereworth, who attended a Kentish shire-court in Archbishop Dunstan's time (between 964 and 988), may have been one of his ancestors.[76] By contrast, Æthelnoth *cild* was one of the richest landholders in England, with 216 hides spread over six shires. Outside Kent he was known as 'the Kentishman', and his estate included 21½ sulungs in Kent, as well as property in both Rochester and Canterbury. John of Worcester describes him as 'governor (*satrap*) of Kent',

[218] C.f. Ibid Ann Williams (1995, p. 91), Partial Genealogical Table Reconstruction for this family unit.

In the handwritten records from the royal commissions for the Domesday Book of 1086, a "Sibi" as "Sybi" is recognised of Little Missenden Manor, where in 1066, other records make for his neighbours to include Saeric likely the grandson of Siward of Chilham and great grandson of Siward the Old, because he is the brother of Sired the Magnate/Cannon of Dover. It is interesting the properties found on a modern google GPS search indicate more likely than not they probably or near certain shared the same property lines, including the former Queen Edith, Sibi's sister-in-law and Saeric and Sired as well as Gest's maternal aunt-who is the sister of Aldeva /Aleuea / Ælfgyva, Earl Harold/Harold II sisters.

On the weight of evidence, the strong suggestion is they may have in 1066, all lived in close proximity around the Manor of Amersham, near the village and castle of Berkhamsted to the northeast boundary of Edith's property:

[Little] Missenden



Open Domesday researchers record Ælfgyva name with various phonetic spelling s written down differently by royal commissioners including Ældeva (Aldeva), presumably reflecting the pronunciation given to royal commissioner. Ælfgyva and Sigeraed's son Saeric, along with Ælfgyva's sister Edith, the Confessor's wife, also held land in Little Missenden/Amersham in 1066:

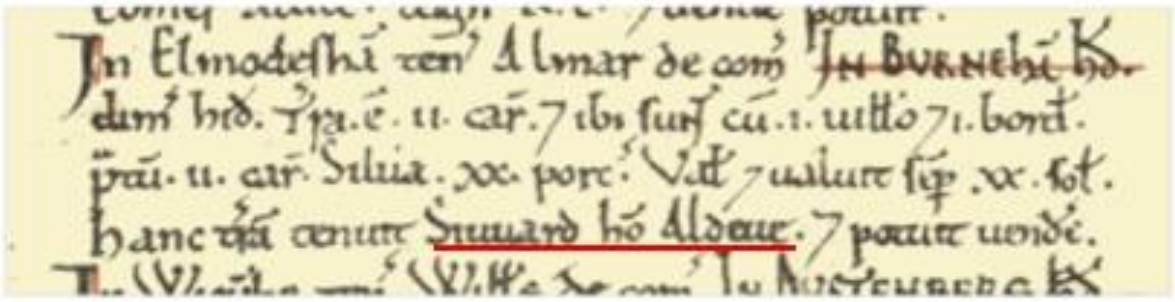
Holder 1066

Shire	Phil. ref.	Vill	DB Spelling	Holder 1066	Lord 1066	Tenant-in-Chief 1086
Berkshire	34,2	Maidenhead	Siward's brother of Sæwulf, man of Earl Harold	Siward's brother of Sæwulf	-	Giles brother of Ansculf
Berkshire	34,2	Maidenhead	Siwardus	Siward's brother of Sæwulf	-	Giles brother of Ansculf
Berkshire	38,4	Whatcombe	Seuuardus	Siward 'of Whatcombe'	Edward, king	Geoffrey de Mandeville
Buckinghamshire	12,13	Burston	Siwardus	Siward's brother of Sæwulf	Harold, earl	Robert, count of Mortain
Buckinghamshire	**12,4**	**Amersham**	**Siuuard**	**Siward, the man of Ealdgifu**	**Ealdgifu**	**Robert, count of Mortain**
Buckinghamshire	51,1	Datchet	Siuuardus	Siward's brother of Sæwulf	Harold, earl	Giles brother of Ansculf
Buckinghamshire	51,2	Boveney	Siuuard	Siward's brother of Sæwulf	Harold, earl	Giles brother of Ansculf

Open Domesday captures this about Siward of Chilham and Aldeva as Alueua's shared holding of a property in Buckinghamshire in 1066:

> ***Amersham*** *was a settlement in Domesday Book, in the hundreds of Burnham and the county of Buckinghamshire. It had a recorded population of 43 households in 1086, putting it in the largest 20% of settlements recorded in Domesday, and is listed under 6 owners in Domesday Book… [In 1086] it was the property of Count Robert of Mortain Tenant-in-chief. The Lord in 1086 Almer (of Wootton). Other information refers to: Phillimore reference: Buckinghamshire 12,4.*

Amersham



In 1066 however, the over lord was Aldeva (Alueua), and the Lord Siward brother of Saewulf, likely therefor under Williams's reconstructions to be Siward of Chilham, Sibi's father and Alueua father in-law. Thereby showing also Siward of Chilham also in the land holding orbit of Earl Harold in 1066 if the following PASE Domesday record is further considered:

Holder 1066

Shire	Phil. ref.	Vill	DB Spelling	Holder 1066	Lord 1066	Tenant-in-Chief 1086
Buckinghamshire	51,1	Datchet	Heraldus	Siward brother of Sæwulf	Harold, earl	Giles brother of Ansculf
Buckinghamshire	51,2	Boveney	Heraldus	Siward brother of Sæwulf	Harold, earl	Giles brother of Ansculf

If we also consider Open Domesday's analysis of this handwritten record for Amersham to be reliable, we can conclude that Ælfgyva, sister of her neighbour, former Queen Edith, the widow of the Confessor, and sister of Earl Harold was the overlord of the property listed for 1066, which was held by her father-in-law, Siward, the brother of Saewulf.

This connection further highlights, perhaps Siward (c.990-1075) [Gest per se] as Siward Grossus, Sigeraed's great grandfather was alive also in 1066, close linear blood relatives may have clustered together as residents preferring at that time the place Amersham, including Sigeraed, son of Sibi, who owned the adjacent property Little Missenden. It is likely that they shared the same boundary fence as his son Saeric, brother of another known only as "Gest" according to Domesday. Saeric borrowed from a personal name of a brother to make the complicated genealogy being reconstructed more accessible to the reader.

Provenance of the Gest (Guest) surname reasonable considered to be a retrospective appellation only as far upstream to Saeric, but facts show not directly attributed to him but appellated it seems first by an unknown historian who recognised his brother's personal name it seems Gest. Historians such as Mark Anthony Lower giving Gest as an appellation to Saeric perhaps to make clear he was tied to the name Gest, which is recognised correctly here as his other brother's first name. This is also in the period where surname was extremely rare. That said the familiar attachment and orbit of brothers Saeric, Sigeraed, Sigeraed recorded father Sibi and Saeric and Sired/Sigeraed's recorded mother Aleuea all closely associated in the one family unit it seems in 1066 with the name Gest.

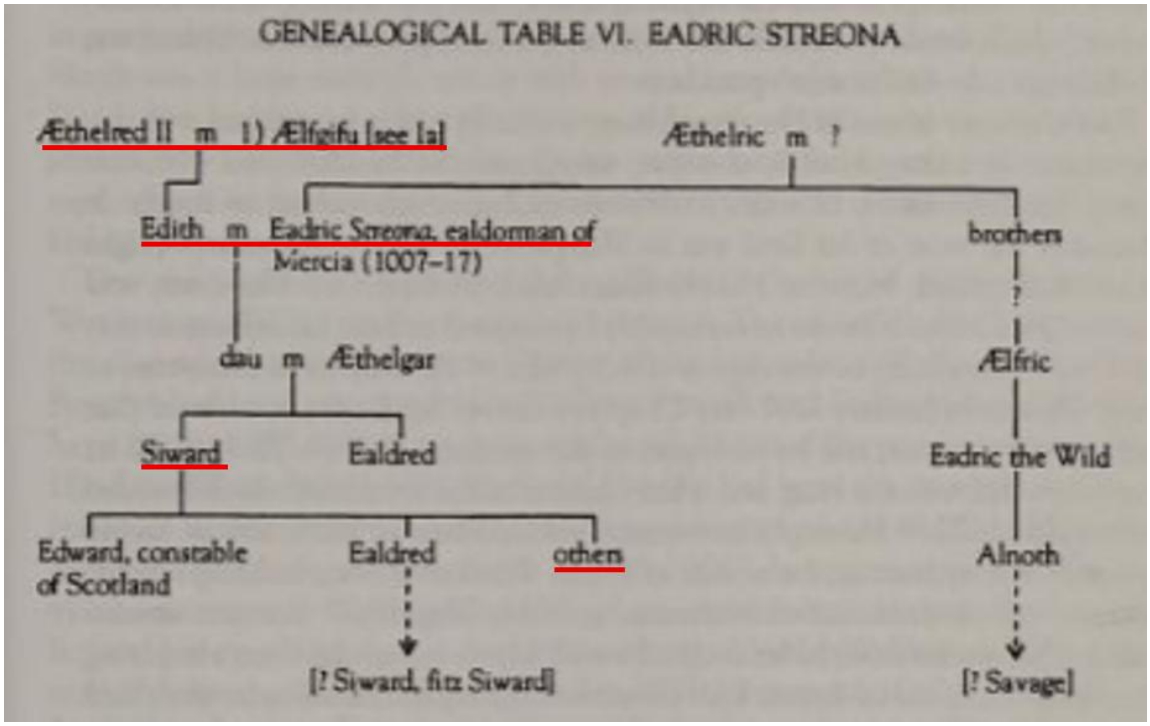
Saeric's possible grandfather Æthelgar of Guestling, Hastings, Sussex

The ancestral home Guestling of the greater village of Hastings and in the hundreds also called Guestling, located in south east Sussex near to the border of south west Kent. Siward Grossus the probable great grandfather of Saeric is the son it seems of Æthelgar. This name shared with one Æthelgar, Archbishop of Canterbury (c. 945-990).

It cannot be ruled out presently that Siward Grossus's father was Æthelgar whom could be the same person as the archbishop or perhaps even his son named after him, Æthelgar II.[219]

That said and proceeding cautiously, the archbishop Æthelgar of Kent and Sussex Churchland holdings likely to have a strong affinity to the place the hundred and village of Guestling, in South East Sussex/Kent borderlands district, held as part of dioceses of Kent, that Æthelgar presided over.

Overleaf Ann Williams' 1995, page 91, familiar reconstruction in the form of a genealogical table is borrowed here and further explores the context which may either be upheld or rejected as fresh evidence comes t hand but keeps open a finding that the archbishop is the father of Siward Grossus, Ealdred and their likely brother Siger the elder, or the archbishop had a son he named Æthelgar [II] per se.

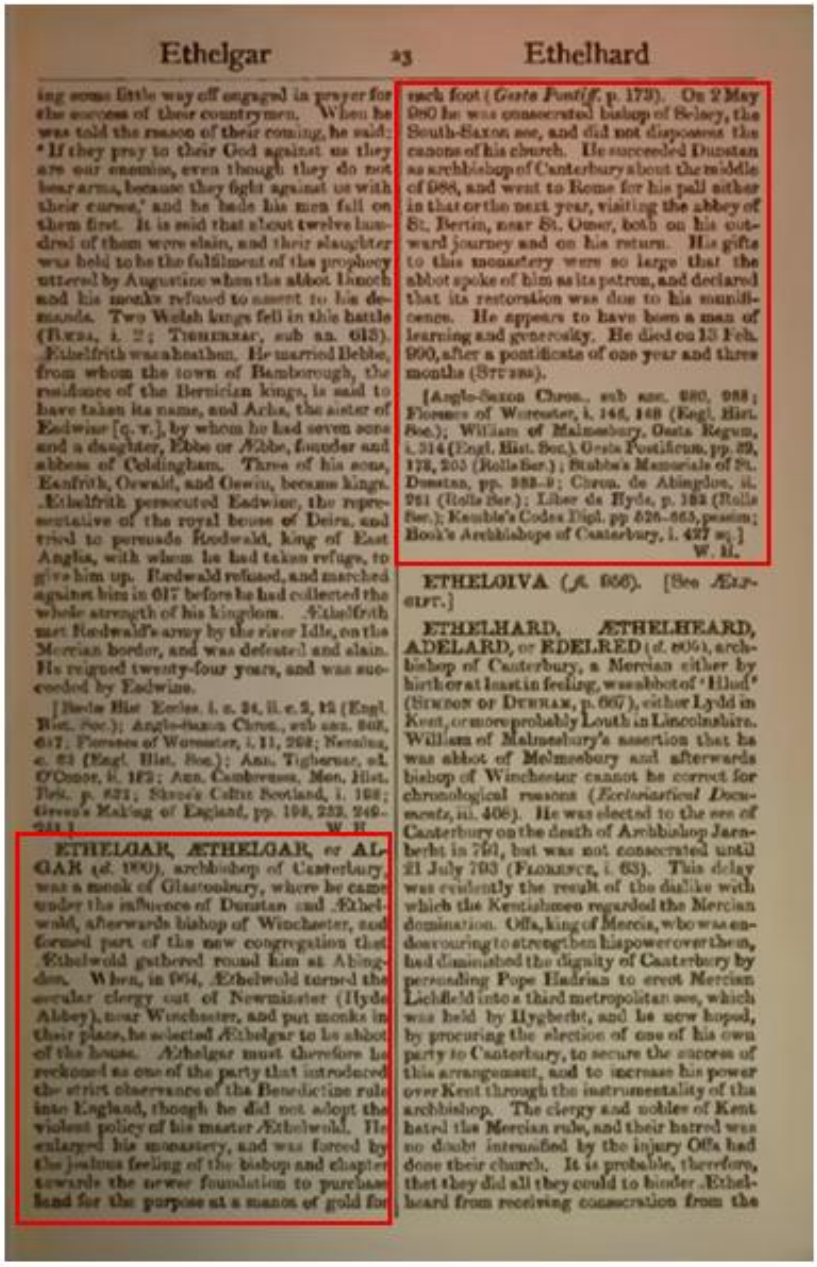


[219] Ibid, Dr Ann Williams (1995, p. 91).

The table recognises whilst the brothers Siward and Ealdred are sons of an otherwise unidentifiable man named Æthelgar, he was presumably a man of prominence, who married the granddaughter of King Ethelred II and Queen Ædgifu (Edith of York).

Siward Grossus who passed away in 1075. He is recognised also as Siward the Old, and likely born around 990, indicating that his father may have been born around 970, particularly as Siward Grossus, the Old, is recognised as the eldest of five sons. This further suggests that his father, Æthelgar , who cannot be dismissed easily as the son of Æthelgar, Archbishop of Canterbury. The archbishop related or not to Siward and his brother Ealdred, nonetheless born circa 945, and died of illness in 990.

Below is Æthelgar, Archbishop of Canterbury's biography researched and written by William Hunt in the last decade of the 19th century: [220] [221]



Ethelgar 23 Ethelhard

ing some little way off engaged in prayer for the success of their countrymen. When he was told the reason of their coming, he said: 'If they pray to their God against us they are our enemies, even though they do not bear arms, because they fight against us with their curses,' and he bade his men fall on them first. It is said that about twelve hundred of them were slain, and their slaughter was held to be the fulfilment of the prophecy uttered by Augustine when the abbot Dunoth and his monks refused to assent to his demands. Two Welsh kings fell in this battle (Bæda, i. 2; Thurnbar, sub an. 613). Æthelfrith was a heathen. He married Bebbe, from whom the town of Bamborough, the residence of the Bernician kings, is said to have taken its name, and Acha, the sister of Edwine [q. v.], by whom he had seven sons and a daughter, Ebbe or Æbbe, founder and abbess of Coldingham. Three of his sons, Eanfrith, Oswald, and Oswiu, became kings. Æthelfrith persecuted Edwine, the representative of the royal house of Deira, and tried to persuade Redwald, king of East Anglia, with whom he had taken refuge, to give him up. Redwald refused, and marched against him in 617 before he had collected the whole strength of his kingdom. Æthelfrith met Redwald's army by the river Idle, on the Mercian border, and was defeated and slain. He reigned twenty-four years, and was succeeded by Edwine.

[Bæda Hist. Eccles. i. c. 34, ii. c. 2, 12 (Engl. Hist. Soc.); Anglo-Saxon Chron., sub ann. 603, 617; Florence of Worcester, i. 11, 268; Nennius, c. 63 (Engl. Hist. Soc.); Ann. Tigernac, ed. O'Conor, ii. 172; Ann. Cambriæ, Mon. Hist. Brit. p. 831; Skene's Celtic Scotland, i. 168; Green's Making of England, pp. 198, 233, 249–251.] W. H.

ETHELGAR, ÆTHELGAR, or ALGAR (*d.* 990), archbishop of Canterbury, was a monk of Glastonbury, where he came under the influence of Dunstan and Æthelwold, afterwards bishop of Winchester, and formed part of the new congregation that Æthelwold gathered round him at Abingdon. When, in 964, Æthelwold turned the secular clergy out of Newminster (Hyde Abbey), near Winchester, and put monks in their place, he selected Æthelgar to be abbot of the house. Æthelgar must therefore be reckoned as one of the party that introduced the strict observance of the Benedictine rule into England, though he did not adopt the violent policy of his master Æthelwold. He enlarged his monastery, and was forced by the jealous feeling of the bishop and chapter towards the newer foundation to purchase land for the purpose at a manca of gold for each foot (*Gesta Pontif.* p. 173). On 2 May 980 he was consecrated bishop of Selsey, the South-Saxon see, and did not dispossess the canons of his church. He succeeded Dunstan as archbishop of Canterbury about the middle of 988, and went to Rome for his pall either in that or the next year, visiting the abbey of St. Bertin, near St. Omer, both on his outward journey and on his return. His gifts to this monastery were so large that the abbot spoke of him as its patron, and declared that its restoration was due to his munificence. He appears to have been a man of learning and generosity. He died on 13 Feb. 990, after a pontificate of one year and three months (Stubbs).

[Anglo-Saxon Chron., sub ann. 980, 988; Florence of Worcester, i. 146, 148 (Engl. Hist. Soc.); William of Malmesbury, Gesta Regum, i. 214 (Engl. Hist. Soc.), Gesta Pontificum, pp. 29, 178, 203 (Rolls Ser.); Stubbs's Memorials of St. Dunstan, pp. 388–9; Chron. de Abingdon, ii. 281 (Rolls Ser.); Liber de Hyda, p. 183 (Rolls Ser.); Kemble's Codex Dipl. pp. 826–865, passim; Hook's Archbishops of Canterbury, i. 427 sq.] W. H.

ETHELGIVA (*fl.* 956). [See ÆLFGIFU.]

ETHELHARD, ÆTHELHEARD, ADELARD, or EDELRED (*d.* 805), archbishop of Canterbury, a Mercian either by birth or at least in feeling, was abbot of 'Hlud' (Simeon of Durham, p. 667), either Lydd in Kent, or more probably Louth in Lincolnshire. William of Malmesbury's assertion that he was abbot of Malmesbury and afterwards bishop of Winchester cannot be correct for chronological reasons (*Ecclesiastical Documents*, iii. 406). He was elected to the see of Canterbury on the death of Archbishop Jaenberht in 791, but was not consecrated until 21 July 793 (Florence, i. 63). This delay was evidently the result of the dislike with which the Kentishmen regarded the Mercian domination. Offa, king of Mercia, who was endeavouring to strengthen his power over them, had diminished the dignity of Canterbury by persuading Pope Hadrian to erect Mercian Lichfield into a third metropolitan see, which was held by Hygbeht, and he now hoped, by procuring the election of one of his own party to Canterbury, to secure the success of this arrangement, and to increase his power over Kent through the instrumentality of the archbishop. The clergy and nobles of Kent hated the Mercian rule, and their hatred was no doubt intensified by the injury Offa had done their church. It is probable, therefore, that they did all they could to hinder Æthelheard from receiving consecration from the

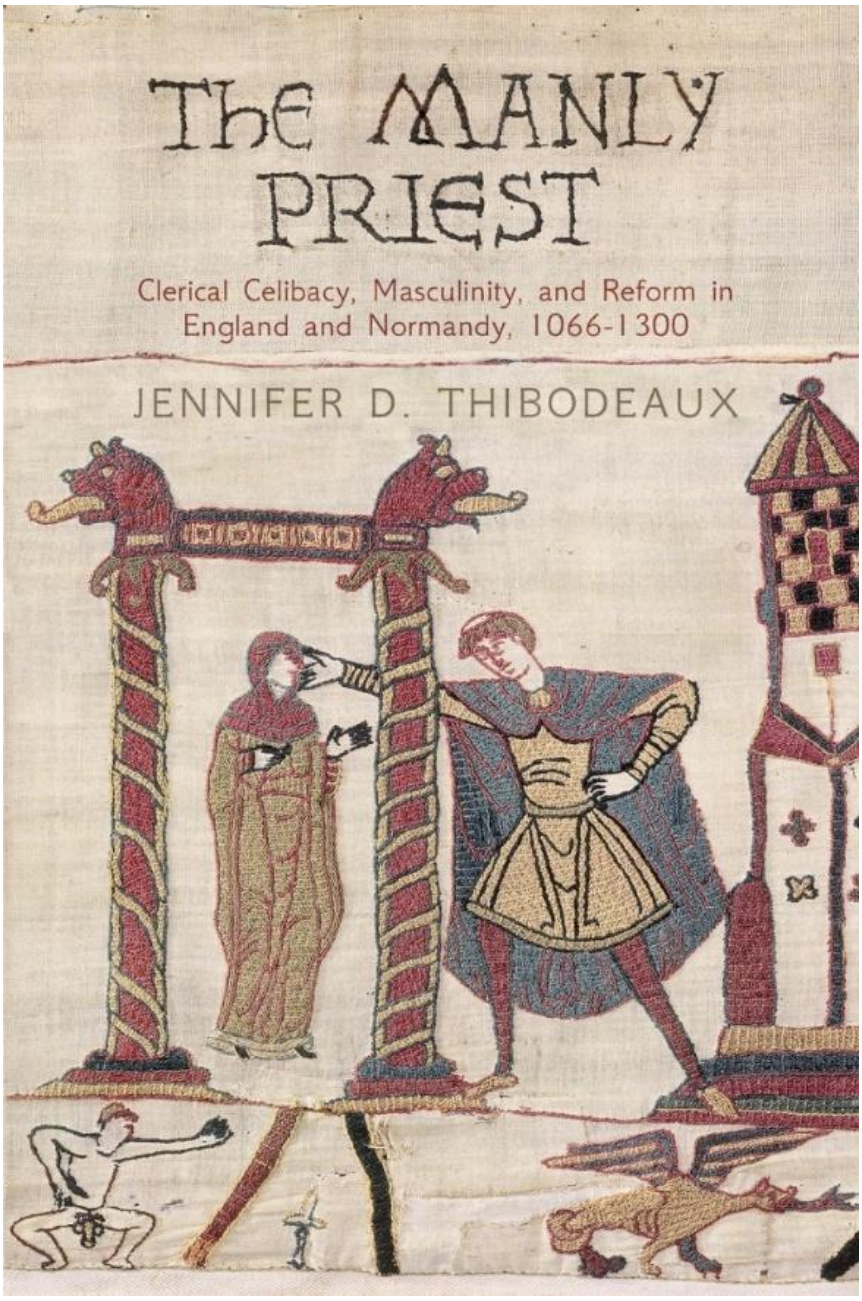
[220] Hunt, William (1885-1900). "Æthelgar (d. 990)". Oxford Dictionary of National Biography. Smith, Mary Frances Smith, revised. Oxford University

[221] The time stamps make for two men named Æthelgar rather than one of the same family of Guestling, Hastings Sussex, and Kent.

Roman Catholic clergy of England and marriage

But could clerics, cannons and Archbishops in late Anglo-Saxon times marry, and have issue? – Yes.

Consulting Jennifer Thibodeaux's 2010 research into marriage of Roman Catholic priests and clerical celibacy, [222] her book cover features prophetically, the Cleric, along with his mother, Ælfgyva. The inference being whether deliberate or by accident Thibodeaux makes for an interesting subliminal connection perhaps that, the cleric with the female subject known as Ælfgyva may have been in some contact with a married cleric. This is not to suggest an affair, rather the cleric may be her spouse or her son who was married. This obscure link at this stage does accord with the name and familiar associations of Aleuea as Ælfgifu as Ælfgyva that speculation afford by PASE and Open Domesday Aleuea and strengthened coupled by her son Sired/Sigeraed identified as a Cannon of Dover:



[222] Thibodeaux, J. (2010). The Manly Priests. Clerical Celibacy, Masculinity and Reform in England and Normandy 1066-1300.

Knowing that Roman Catholic priests (including those who might later become bishops or archbishops, the equivalent of cardinals in a less centralised system) in 10th-century Anglo-Saxon England did marry.

They had children and while the Church officially encouraged celibacy as an ideal, it was not a universally enforced requirement, and local customs often allowed for a married clergy. The strict, universal enforcement of clerical celibacy as a condition of ordination did not become formal canon law for the entire Western Church until the Second Lateran Council in 1139.

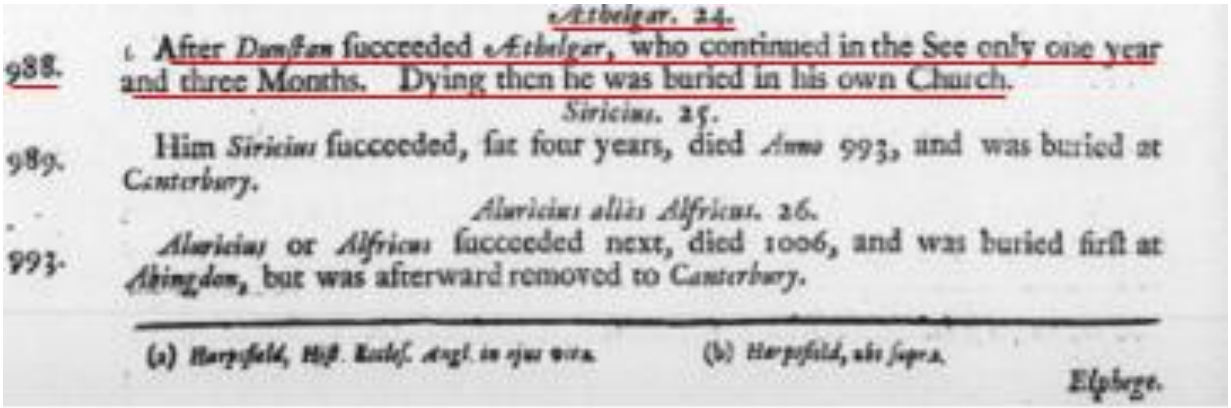
Further learned from consulting Thibodeaux 2010 research work, is that the church discipline regarding clerical marriage was also generally lax during this period. The ability of Popes to enforce rules across remote areas was limited, and enforcement largely depended on local authorities.

Married clergy were a common part of community life in Anglo-Saxon England. Parishioners often saw no problem with their priests being married and having families. It was not unusual for sons to follow their fathers into the clergy, leading to de facto clerical dynasties where church positions and property might be passed down.

The reform movement, the push for mandatory, universal celibacy was a key part of the 11th and 12th-century Gregorian Reforms. A primary motivation was to prevent church wealth and property from being inherited by clerical families, ensuring it remained within the Church's control. This however this did not occur until after the 1066 conquest.

Nevertheless, the situation began to change in England, as the Norman bishops actively adopted the stricter Roman reform ideals. However, even then, the transition was gradual and met with resistance.

Confirmed below from the 1703 research by Sommer & Battely in 1703,[223] Ethelgar, Archbishop of Canterbury, from 988, Archbishop for 15 months before passing in 990 and being buried in his own church (Christ Church, Canterbury): [224]



Æthelgar. 24.

988. After *Dunstan* succeeded *Æthelgar*, who continued in the See only one year and three Months. Dying then he was buried in his own Church.

Siricius. 25.

989. Him *Siricius* succeeded, sat four years, died *Anno* 993, and was buried at *Canterbury*.

Alauicius alliàs Alfricus. 26.

993. *Alauicius* or *Alfricus* succeeded next, died 1006, and was buried first at *Abingdon*, but was afterward removed to *Canterbury*.

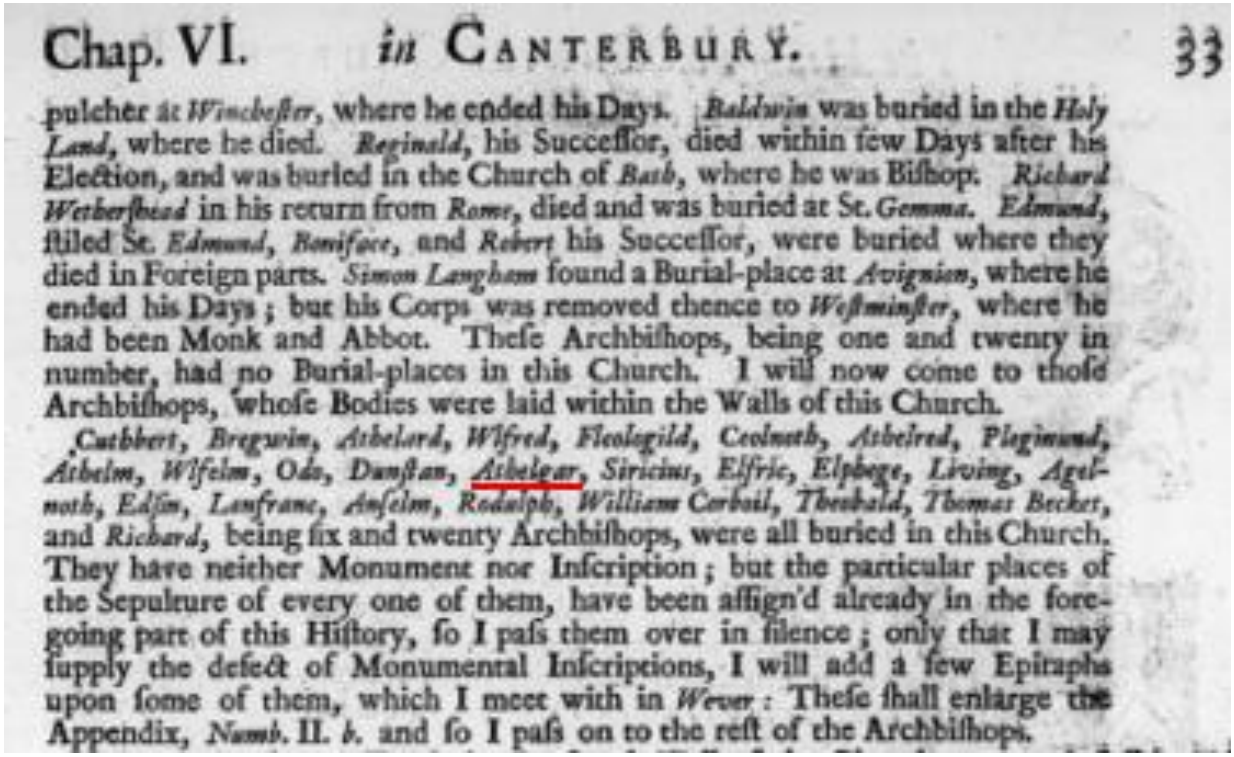
(a) *Harpsfield, Hist. Eccles. Angl. in ejus vita.* (b) *Harpsfield, ubi supra.*

Elphege.

223 Ibid, Sommer & Battely (1703, p. 120).

224 Ibid, Sommer & Battely in 1703 p. 33).

The extract below is for the same source, page 33 and considered a companion record of the extract above, to reveal his burial at Christ Church, Canterbury where Kings and Queens and other Archbishops of Canterbury are buried, and his burial place not lost to history, but humbly, along with many other clerics, neither monument or inscription to the place he lays:



Chap. VI. *in* CANTERBURY. 33

pulcher at *Winchester*, where he ended his Days. *Baldwin* was buried in the *Holy Land*, where he died. *Reginald*, his Succeſſor, died within few Days after his Election, and was buried in the Church of *Bath*, where he was Biſhop. *Richard Wetherſhead* in his return from *Rome*, died and was buried at St. *Gemma*. *Edmund*, ſtiled St. *Edmund*, *Boniface*, and *Robert* his Succeſſor, were buried where they died in Foreign parts. *Simon Langham* found a Burial-place at *Avignion*, where he ended his Days; but his Corps was removed thence to *Weſtminſter*, where he had been Monk and Abbot. Theſe Archbiſhops, being one and twenty in number, had no Burial-places in this Church. I will now come to thoſe Archbiſhops, whoſe Bodies were laid within the Walls of this Church.

Cuthbert, *Bregwin*, *Athelard*, *Wlfred*, *Ficolegild*, *Ceolnoth*, *Athelred*, *Plegimund*, *Athelm*, *Wlfelm*, *Odo*, *Dunſtan*, *Athelgar*, *Siricius*, *Elfric*, *Elphege*, *Living*, *Agelnoth*, *Edſin*, *Lanfranc*, *Anſelm*, *Radulph*, *William Corboil*, *Theobald*, *Thomas Becket*, and *Richard*, being ſix and twenty Archbiſhops, were all buried in this Church. They have neither Monument nor Inſcription; but the particular places of the Sepulture of every one of them, have been aſſign'd already in the foregoing part of this Hiſtory, ſo I paſs them over in ſilence; only that I may ſupply the defect of Monumental Inſcriptions, I will add a few Epitaphs upon ſome of them, which I meet with in *Weever*: Theſe ſhall enlarge the Appendix, *Numb.* II. *b.* and ſo I paſs on to the reſt of the Archbiſhops.

Was Æthelgar Archbishop of Canterbury of a Saxon aristocratic family?

It was common for subsequent sons of Anglo-Saxon earls and other high-ranking nobles to enter the Church, often with the expectation that they would rise to high positions such as bishops or abbots. This practice was driven by the close relationship between the aristocracy and the Church in Anglo-Saxon England.

The family influence of noble families frequently donated land and wealth to the Church and, in return, expected to have a say in the appointment of church officials, including placing their sons in high-ranking clerical roles.

While the eldest son inherited the family estate and secular title, the Church offered a prestigious and influential career path for younger sons, providing them with a high social standing, wealth, and power equivalent to secular lords. The mutual Benefit: The arrangement benefited both the families, who maintained influence and guaranteed prayers for their lineage, and the Church, which gained educated leaders with strong administrative skills and powerful connections.

At the time of Æthelgar high-ranking members of the church hierarchy paralleled the secular aristocracy in power and status, meaning that a noble son entering the clergy did not necessarily experience a significant drop in his social standing. This trend continued into the post-Norman Conquest era as well, and was a common practice throughout medieval Europe.

This brings into the frame his elder son, may have been Godric, the brother of Æthelgar a likely Cannon of Guestling, Sussex. The hint comes from a verse in the poem "The Battle of Maldon' translated by Douglas B. Killings in 1996. [225] Whereby, Godric, the son of Æthelgar, advancing into a body of Vikings and being killed". Could this be how the Guestling branch which assumed the surname after the conquest whilst Saeric line it seems assumed the Gest surname also after the 1066 conquest, favoured to hold the Guestlynge church and taken away by them around 1130 from reforms to the St Maritn's of Dover congregation/diocese of canons so to speak. This must be left to speculation.

Etymology of "Stranger" and "Guest"

Both words share the same ancient origin and actually represent the evolutionary journey of a single concept. In early human societies, "someone coming from afar" was viewed paradoxically as both a potential ally and a dangerous invader.

The root word evolved into very different modern meanings based on cultural context:
Ancient Root: It stems from the Proto-Indo-European root whereby the surname Guest/Gest/Gest considered as a surname derived from a "Stranger" whereas the person considered a "stranger, guest, or host" is tied to modern understandings of the word for mutual hospitality.

Gilbert 'the Stranger" as the earliest recorded as "the Stranger" and written down in this form [226]known to this study as likely familia member of the "Guest" family inheriting Godmund/Guthmund, son of Saeric,[227] likely succeeded to once was Saeric's land in Costock, Nottinghamshire, and perhaps elsewhere, and later found in historical documents to be nearby to where his probable brother Benwoldus Gest, lived near the village of Guestlynge, Sussex.

Given Gilbert was given the appellation the "Stranger" in Sussex his return may have given rise to suspicion. There were known collateral relative bearing the Guest family name of Anglo-Saxon origin, "Guestlynge" which is OE, Anglos-Saxon spelling for "Guest" "Family" [Guest-Family = Guest-Lynge) and translated into modern English parlance.

His likely son, Alan took first the geographical family name de Dunstanvilles, after moving from his father Gilbert's seat in Costock, Nottinghamshire and likely land he was given from his father Godmund, son of Saeric in which Saeric and his brother held that land evidenced by Domesday;[228] as well as land in Hertfordshire on the borderland with Shrop which it seems was the primary place preferred by Saeric and his son Godmaund.[229] [230]

Alan perhaps given land by his father in de Dunstanvilles near Shropshire to serve him for his welfare as a young man making his way. Alan de Lega's property and location interests emerged around Shropshire also considered the place of origin of Saeric's descendants after the time of Domesday, and where his reconstituted lineal ancestor Siward the Grossus of South East England and known in 1066, as "Siward the Old", held estate in his later years in Shrop where he expired it seems in the year 1075.

[225] Killings, D. B. (1995). The Battle of Maldon. A Verse Translation by Douglas B. Killings – Last two verses in the poem.
[226] Page, W. & Salzmann, L.F. (1907, p172). "A History of Sussex." Victoria County History (VCH) [of Sussex]. : Gilbert the Stranger", c.f.,
[227] PASE Domesday. Saeric 2 - Særic father of Godmund, fl. 1066.
[228] Open Domesday. "Costock" Nottingham shire, Lords in 1066: Saeric; Saeric's brothers. Nottinghamshire folio 21.
[229] K. S. B. Keats-Rohan, Domesday People: A Prosopography of Persons Occurring in English Documents 1066–1166: I. Domesday Book (Woodbridge, 1999).
[230] PASE Domesday. Godmund 5 – Son of Saeric 2 – Hertfordshire. 1086.

The growing corpus suggests Gilbert the Stranger, Alan's father, was only a visitor to the historical family seat of Guestlynge, but held position of some civic levels, and temporarily lived in East Sussex and primarily in Nottinghamshire.

The Norman People (1874, p. 272) contributes to preserving the Guest surname continuity from the time of Alan de Dunstanvilles/de Lega in a direct descending patriline to south anchors Bishop Edmund Guest and Sir John Josiah Guest, maintaining and help confirm patriline continuity despite aberrations of adoption of the geographical name for a short time de Dunstanvilles/de Lega before solidifying Guest (Gest) as the family name of lineal descendants of Saeric, brother of Gest.

The places of origin for the Guest, family which include Sussex at the time of the conquest 1066 and later Worcestershire, is recognised by Guppy (1890, p 494).

Mark Antony Lower F.S.A. M.A. (1813-1876) research is significant in this regard and to further establish continuity. He was a Sussex historian and schoolteacher who founded the Sussex Archaeological Society. In his foundational 1844 work, *English Surnames: An Essay on Family Nomenclature*, Lower categorised the surname Guest as one of many English names derived from casual everyday relationships or descriptive nicknames.

It is the anonymous authors of Norman People believed to have consulted Lower making placing the ancestors of Saeric in Coombes near Guestling, before the one of the branches descending from Siward Grossus, his son Siward of Chilham, headed by Saeric settled in Herefordshire/Shropshire borderland.

Shifting borders perhaps made for a Shrop identity and through Saeric son Godmund, then Gilbert, Alan his son settled. This short but informative journey of the former Sussex family placed later in Shropshire from the time of Saeric in Shropshire borderland district in 1066 and then his offspring Alan, either acquiring through his own means, or succeeding to the property perhaps a smaller parcel of the original land and given to him by his father to sustain him, took the geographical name de Dunstanvilles, then Alan de Lega perhaps after acquiring more lad, may be through inheritance when Gilbert passed. For its is Alan's grandson who reclaimed the "Gest" name as a surname.

I say reclaimed, not because it was a surname rather it was a personal name given to Saeric's brother. Whilst remaining supposition and based on original research by the present author, Saeric and Sired's brother given the personal name Gest, and certain from Domesday Book listing the Gest brother of Saeric held Laverstock Wiltshire England in 1066.[231]

Then in 1086 his brother Saeric succeeded the same land. Their parent's reconstituted, from another brother also Sired, tells of Sibi of Chilham and spouse Aueueua/Aelfgyva giving their son Gest that name and with the familia geographical placement in East Sussex and Kent, there is some credence to the name Gest being remembered in their son from the place Gestlynge, East Sussex.

The Stranger path, has its root in Latin, attributed to people considered by locals as foreigners because they were often viewed with suspicion, the word eventually shifted to mean "enemy" (giving us "hostile"). Whilst the "Guest" path root is taken back to Frankish/Germanic and Norse languages, and Gest a place near Caen Normandy.[232]

[231] Open Domesday. "Gest brother of Saeric" held Laverstock, Alderbury, Wiltshire before 1066, Saeric his brother held in 1086, *c.f.,*The Norman People 1874, p. 272; *c.f.*, Lower, 1844 and 1860.

[232] Lower, M. A. (1860). Guest/Gest/Geste or a geographical origin near Caen, Normandy, France.

The root of the family name Guest further recognised across the literature to have evolved into words like Old English Gest/Geste/Gestlyng in Anglo-Saxon times[233] and evolving into modern English Guest spelling,[234] from late medieval experiments with the spelling or scribble error Gheast. Geast, Gheast, Ghuest but always pronounced Guest and settling in the modern form predominantly as "Guest" as evidenced first by the spelling of Gyles Guest's name by officialdom in 1543.[235]

Focusing on the positive, welcoming aspect of the stranger (giving us "guest"). This maybe the treatment given to Gilbert the Stranger, Alan's attested father, and may have involved some form of verbal irony – if one considers Gilbert as a prodigal and generational distant son returning home to the place Guestlynge where there is a significantly strong circumstantial, religious and situational evidence to make this assertion his line originated from there.

Welcoming a stranger and labelling the person "Guest" also extended to mean a potential enemy—into your home to "break bread" or your village to hear you speak, and perceived as a sacred obligation. Therefore, "Guest" and "Stranger" are linked because society developed the concept of a guest as a stranger who has been welcomed in.

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- Guppy, H. B. (1890). Homes of Family Names in Great Britain by Henry Brougham Guppy.
- Lower, M. A. (1844). English Surnames: An Essay on Family Nomenclature.

[233] From the French, Guest; from the Dutch, Gest; a personal name. British Family Names: Their Origin and Meaning (1903) by Henry Barber.

[234] The Norman People (1874). Published by Henry S. King & Co. in London.

[235] Chitting, H. and Philipot, J., (1885, p81).

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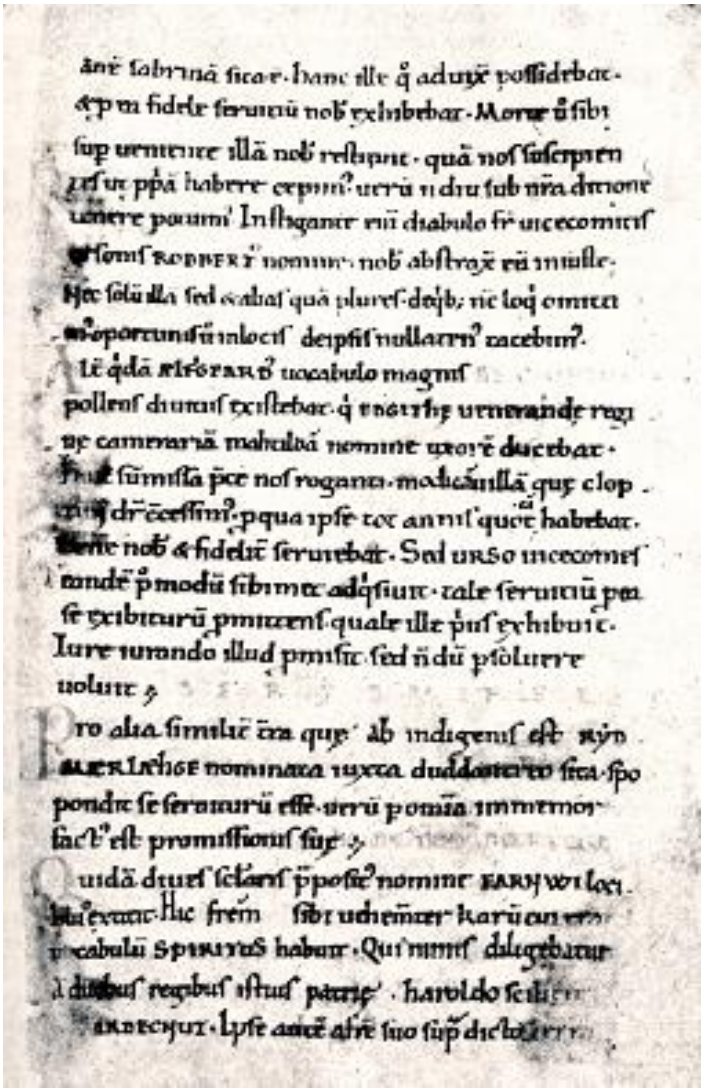
PART 6 – THE FAMILIA HOUSE OF WESSEX LINEAGE

The familia Wessex matrilineal bloodline

Switching the ascending trace from the paternal line to Siward' Grossus's mother who lacks from record her personal names, but known by Williams (1995, p. 91) and Chibnall (1969) to be the granddaughter of the King and Queen from the House of Wessex, Ethelred II (The Unready) and Ædgifu "Edith" of York, we know her mother also as Eadgyth, Lady of Mercia (995 - 1022), wife of Earl of Mercia, Edric Streona (975-1017).

Saeric's 4th great grandparents, Princess Edith and Earl of Mercier, Ædric Streona

Elgitha, married Eadric, known as "Streona," in 1009. This union confirmed and found in Ann William's 2003 research work. [236] Eadric, was a key adviser to King Ethelred II and Ealdorman of Mercia from 1007 to 1017. He was infamous for his treachery. He switched allegiances between Edmund "Ironside" and Cnut during 101-1016, ultimately betraying Edmund at the battle of Ashingdon. Cnut appointed him Ealdorman in 1017 but had him murdered the same year. Below is a facsimile of Hemming's Cartulary, a collection of charters from the late 10th century, where Eadric acquires his epithet "Streona", MS Cotton Tiberius A xiii, folio 121, British Library:[237]



[236] Williams, A. (2003, p.75), Æthelred the Unready: The Ill-Counselled King. London, UK: Hambledon and London.
[237] Source of facsimile image, attributed to: Ða Engliscan Gesiðas. "Eadric Streona".

Saeric's 5th great grandparents, Ethelred II (The Unready) and Ædgifu "Edith" of York

For the sake of brevity, beyond Ethelred II the Unready lies the illustrious House of Wessex taking a direct line to Alfred the Great to which there is no need to submit what is easily confirmable by consulting authorities such as Royal.Uk: [238]

Ethelred II 'The Unready' (r. 978-1013 and 1014-1016)

Whereas, in an ascending direction from Ethelred the Unready we can see his father is:

- Edgar the Peaceful, King 959–975.
- Son of Edmund I, King 939–946.
- Son of Edward the Elder, King 899–924.
- Son of Alfred the Great, King 871–899.
- Son of Æthelwulf, King 839–858.
- Son of Ecgberht, King 802–839.

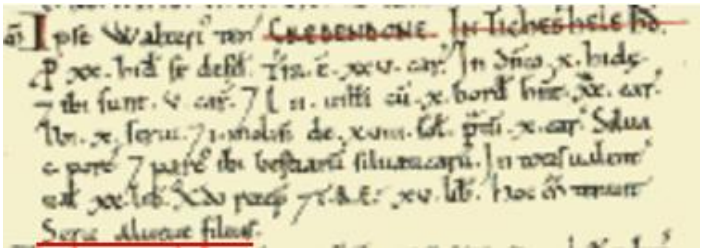
Ælfgifu of York (died c. 1001) was the first wife of Ethelred II, the Unready, King of the English. They had many children together, including Edmund Ironside. It is most probable that Ælfgifu was a daughter of Thored, Earl of southern Northumbria and his wife, Hilda.[239]

[238] Ethelred II 'The Unready' (r. 978-1013 and 1014-1016). Royal. UK. Online: https://www.royal.uk/ethelred-ii-unready-r-978-1013-and-1014-1016.
[239] Williams, Ann (2003, p. 24). Æthelred the Unready: The Ill-Counselled King. London, 2003.

PART 7 – IN SEARCH OF SAERIC'S MOTHER'S HERITAGE

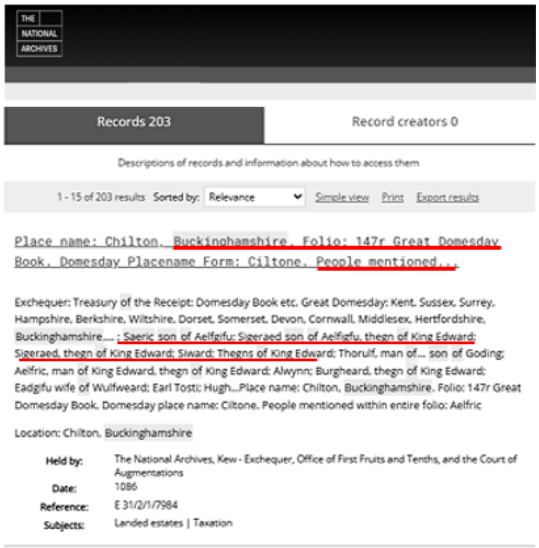
Ælfgyva (Gest) and her Gest family in the Great Domesday Book for 1066

Notably, Saeric is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 in 1066 as the son of Ælfgyva, [240]also spelled phonetically as Alveve. In 1066, Saeric the manor of Long Crendon in Buckinghamshire. [241] He is further recorded holding personally several demesnes granted to him by William I:



A companion record, to the previous submitted above, Saeric and his mother Ælfgyva and taken from Buckinghamshire Folio: 147r further lists many family members including those lineally aligned by genealogical evidence previously submitted puts beyond doubt the membership and placement of these forementioned family members of the united family of Sigeraed of Chilham Kent (c. 1012-aft. 1066), and his wife Ælfgyva (c.1013-aft. 1066), Earl Godwine's daughter is correct. They are found listed by the National Archives UK extracted by their curators as named within the full Buckinghamshire Folio: 147r: [242]

> *"Domesday place name: Policote. People mentioned within entire folio: Ælfric son of Goding; Ælfric , man of King Edward, thegn of King Edward; Alwynn; Burgheard, thegn of King Edward; Eadgifu wife of Wulfweard; Earl Tosti; Hugh d'Avranches, Earl of Chester; Earnwulf; Edith; Geoffrey; Herbrand; Hugh; Hugh de Bolbec;* ***Men of Sigeraed****;* ***Queen Edith (Ædgyth)****; Ralph; Richard; Robert; Roger;* ***Saeric son of Ælfgyva****;* ***Sigeraed son of Ælfgyva****,* ***Sigeraed, thegn of King Edward****;* ***Siward; Thegns of King Edward****; Thorulf, man of Earl Leofwine; Turstin; Turstin fitzRolf; Walter; Walter Giffard; Wicga, thegn of King Edward; William; Wulfweard, man of Queen Edith (Ædgyth)."*


THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
Records 203
Record creators 0
Descriptions of records and information about how to access them
1 - 15 of 203 results Sorted by: Relevance Simple view Print Export results
Place name: Chilton, Buckinghamshire, Folio: 147r Great Domesday Book, Domesday Placename Form: Ciltone, People mentioned...
Exchequer: Treasury of the Receipt: Domesday Book etc. Great Domesday: Kent, Sussex, Surrey, Hampshire, Berkshire, Wiltshire, Dorset, Somerset, Devon, Cornwall, Middlesex, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire... ; Saeric son of Aelfgifu; Sigeraed son of Aelfgifu, thegn of King Edward; Sigeraed, thegn of King Edward; Siward; Thegns of King Edward; Thorulf, man of... son of Goding; Aelfric, man of King Edward, thegn of King Edward; Alwynn; Burgheard, thegn of King Edward; Eadgifu wife of Wulfweard; Earl Tosti; Hugh...Place name: Chilton, Buckinghamshire, Folio: 147r Great Domesday Book, Domesday place name: Ciltone, People mentioned within entire folio: Aelfric
Location: Chilton, Buckinghamshire
Held by: The National Archives, Kew - Exchequer, Office of First Fruits and Tenths, and the Court of Augmentations
Date: 1086
Reference: E 31/2/1/7984
Subjects: Landed estates | Taxation

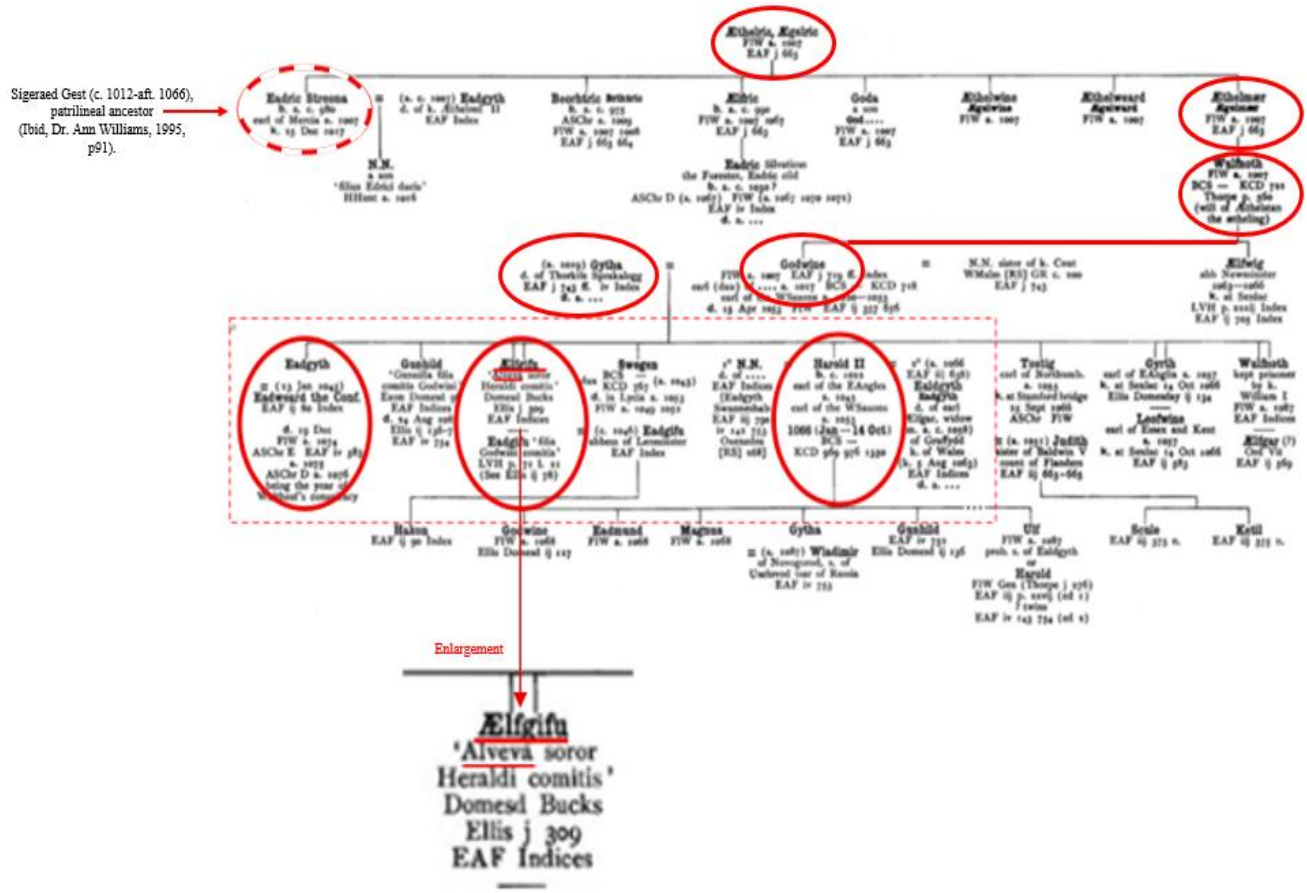
[240] Ælfgyva's married surname, Gest, is presumed and retrospectively applied by the current researcher, linked to her son known as Saeric "Gest," and is attached to her Anglo-Saxon personal name. Additionally, her maiden name is thought to be Godwinedottir, reflecting a combination of her father's Anglo-Saxon and her mother's Danish naming traditions.
[241] Open Domesday, Særic son of Ælfeva. Buckinghamshire folio 9. https://opendomesday.org/place/SP6909/long-crendon/
[242] Ibid, The National Archives [UK], Place name: Lower Pollicott, Upper Pollicott, Buckinghamshire Folio: 147r.

Saeric and Sired's mother, Ælfgyva daughter of Earl Godwine and Gyöa (Gytha) Thorkelsdóttir

Beginning with William George Searle's 1899 "Genealogy of the House of Godwine," it is found on his pages 358-359 in his published work "Anglo-Saxon Bishops, Kings and Nobles," that nine offspring were born to Earl Godwine of Wessex and Dane, Gyöa (Gytha) Thorkelsdóttir.

Searle, outlines their significant lineage and connections, Ælfgyva, especially through Harold's other sister, Ælfgifu wife of Edward the Confessor, and Harold's all issue of Earl Godwine and Gytha of Wessex. Searle links them and the other siblings to royal houses of England and Russia through marriage alliances.

Circled below are key family search details taken from Searle's genealogy table that connect directly to the Gest family of Saeric. Searle's genealogical table shows not only Earl Godwine's powerful sons, Harold, Tostig, Gyrth, Leofwine, Wulfnoth, but also his daughters Eadgyth [Edith] who married Edward the Confessor, Gunhild, Gytha and Ælfgyva who married Sigeraed Gest of Chilham, Kent.[243] The primary source for the Saxon spelling of Edith is the Athelstan Museum, Town Hall, Cross Hayes, Malmesbury, Wiltshire:



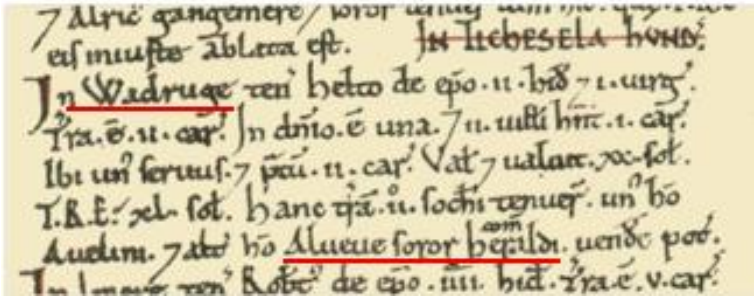
Searle's genealogy serves as a crucial resource for comprehending the influential House of Godwine, detailing their ascent and significance in Anglo-Saxon England through their extensive familial connections and Ælfgyva's key role within it. If Searle's calculations of consanguinity are accurate, they provide evidence that the relationship between Ælfgyva Godwinedottir and Sigeraed Gest is that of second cousins, both tracing their lineage back to Aetheric, the father of Eadric Streona and his brother, Æthelmar.

[243] Open Domesday, 1066, Waldridge Buckinghamshire. Overlords in 1066: Ælfgyva, Earl Harold's sister. Buckinghamshire folio 4. Also: Phillimore reference: Buckinghamshire 4, 21.

Daughter Ælfgyva with her composite "Æ" Anglo-Saxon letter "A" and/or "E" recognised in Domesday Books as written in Latin with the spelling Ælfgyva and sometimes spelled by historians and writer like Searle as "Alveva." PASE Domesday also recognise the spelling "Alveva" [244]and "Ædgeua" holding land in Burgh, Sussex but their provisional attempt to distinguish people with this name to whom can be tied to the high-status family of Earl Godwin, confused by listing provisional records under the name of Ælfgifu (Edith). Hence moving away from the contemporary record confirming the name Ælfgyva as Ælfgyva, scene-15, Bayeaux Tapestry circa 1070, and thus corrupting her name.

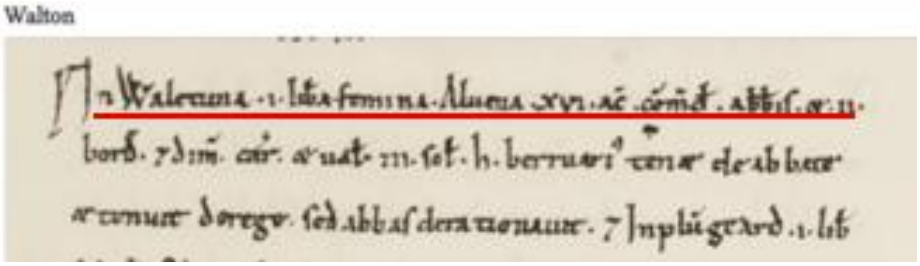
Whereas the writers for Open Domesday Book record for Ælfgyva found in a 1066 Domesday Book record similar spelling as the royal commissions wrote down her name as they heard it pronounced is "Alveve". Importantly also is the same royal commission who wrote the Latin words below makes "Alveve" Earl "*com Heraldi*" Harold's sister: [245]

Waldridge



Further found in Open Domesday, Ælfgyva as Alveve, as spelled by the royal commissioner in 1086 held in Walton, Sussex, Land of Ely (Abbey of St Etheldreda) in 1066: [246]

Walton



Having established this important identity of the time of the Bayeux Tapestry, that Ælfgyva is the daughter of Godwine and Gytha of Wessex with further confirming evidence to follow subsequently, introduced below is her middle son, Saeric. He is Ælfgyva's middle of three known sons, and is the son of Sigeraed of Chilham Kent (c. 1012-aft. 1066) who in turn is the son of Siward, Bishop of Rochester (c. 990-1075), of [247] also known as "Siward Grossus". [248] [249]

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[244] Ælfgifu in PASE Domesday, encapsulating Alveva [Ælfgyva] in error [mine] limiting access to modern readers and researcher pointing to her true heritage and ancestry.

245 Open Domesday, 1066, Waldridge Buckinghamshire. Overlords in 1066: Aelfeva, Earl Harold's sister. Buckinghamshire folio 4. Also: Phillimore reference: Buckinghamshire 4,21.

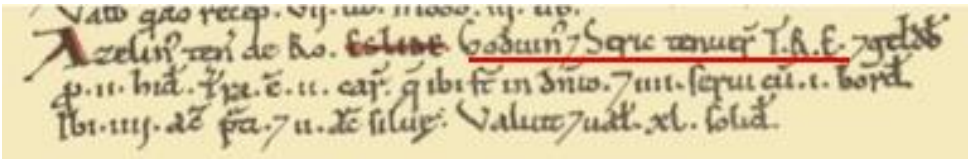
246 Open Domesday, 1066. Land of Ely (Abbey of St Etheldreda), in Sussex in Suffolk folio 106. Refer also Phillimore reference: Suffolk 21, 50.

[247] Open Domesday, [Little] Missenden was a settlement in Domesday Book, in the hundred of Stone and the county of Buckinghamshire. "Tenant-in-chief in 1086: Count Robert of Mortain. Lord in 1086: Wigot. Overlord in 1066: Sired son of Sibbi. Lord in 1066: Alwin. Buckinghamshire folio 7. Also found in Phillimore reference: Buckinghamshire 12,1.

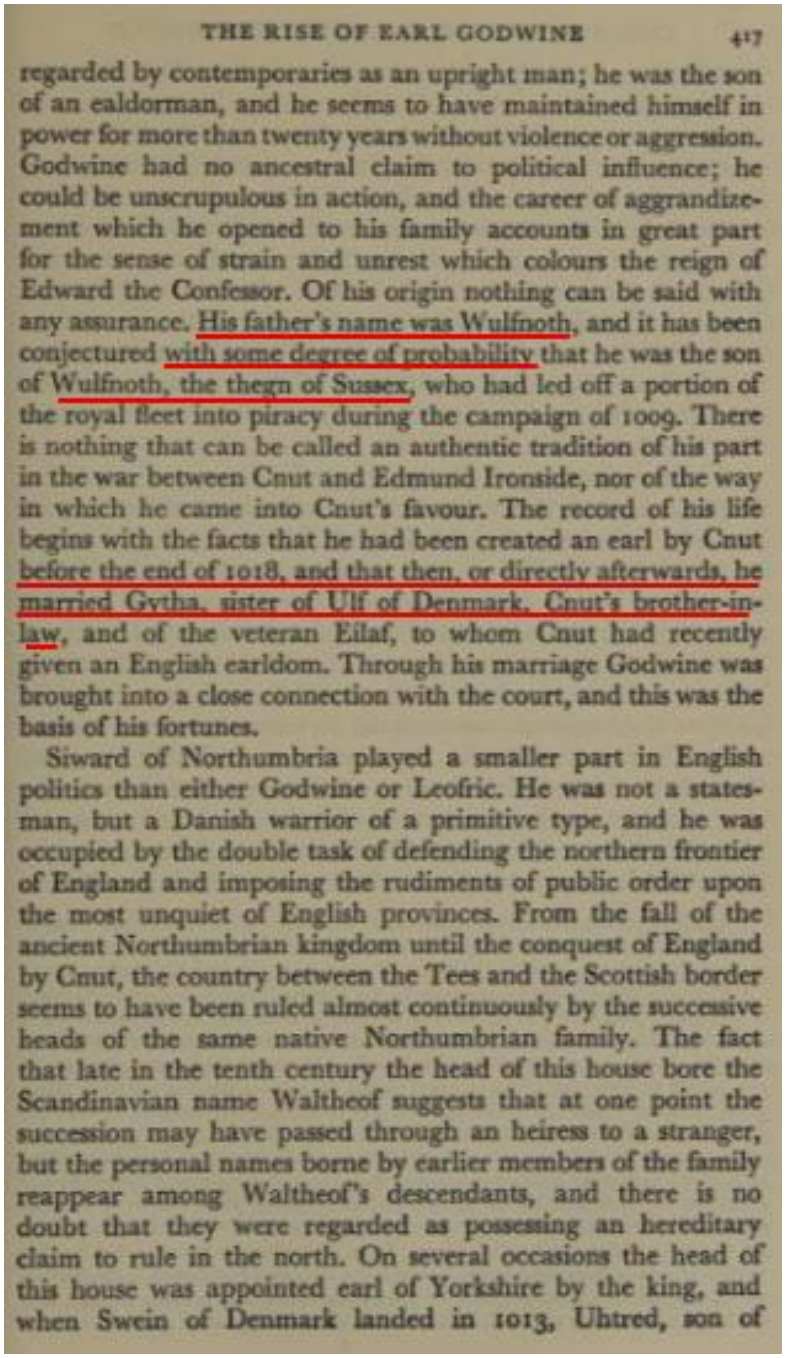
[248] Open Domesday, Manor of Chilham, Kent. Tenant-in-chief in 1086: Bishop Odo of Bayeux.
Lord in 1086: Fulbert.
Overlord in 1066: King Edward.
Lord in 1066: Sired (of Chilham). Kent folio 19. Also found in Phillimore reference: Kent 5,144.

[249] Ibid, Williams, A, (1999, pp. 61-62). "Lost Worlds." Recognises and lists Sibbi of Chilham Kent son of Siward of Chilham. Further evidence from Domesday and Cleric/Cannon related filed makes Sibbi of Chilham, Sibbi, Sigeraed the Canon's father and Sigeraed the son of Aleuea Williams in her 1995, p91, and 1999 study, In 'Lost worlds', Williams explains a list of Sired of

Her son Særic, listed specifically above as the son of Ælfgyva, is further found as a Lord of the manor, Lyde, Somerset[250] together with his maternal grandfather Plausible is, Lord Godwine in 1066:



Consulting overleaf, Stenton (1971, p. 417), captured is the marriage year of Ælfgyva parents Godwine and Gyöa (Gytha) Thorkelsdóttir, about 1019, and recognise Godwine's father, Wulfnoth, most probably Earl of Sussex.



THE RISE OF EARL GODWINE 417

regarded by contemporaries as an upright man; he was the son of an ealdorman, and he seems to have maintained himself in power for more than twenty years without violence or aggression. Godwine had no ancestral claim to political influence; he could be unscrupulous in action, and the career of aggrandizement which he opened to his family accounts in great part for the sense of strain and unrest which colours the reign of Edward the Confessor. Of his origin nothing can be said with any assurance. His father's name was Wulfnoth, and it has been conjectured with some degree of probability that he was the son of Wulfnoth, the thegn of Sussex, who had led off a portion of the royal fleet into piracy during the campaign of 1009. There is nothing that can be called an authentic tradition of his part in the war between Cnut and Edmund Ironside, nor of the way in which he came into Cnut's favour. The record of his life begins with the facts that he had been created an earl by Cnut before the end of 1018, and that then, or directly afterwards, he married Gytha, sister of Ulf of Denmark, Cnut's brother-in-law, and of the veteran Eilaf, to whom Cnut had recently given an English earldom. Through his marriage Godwine was brought into a close connection with the court, and this was the basis of his fortunes.

Siward of Northumbria played a smaller part in English politics than either Godwine or Leofric. He was not a statesman, but a Danish warrior of a primitive type, and he was occupied by the double task of defending the northern frontier of England and imposing the rudiments of public order upon the most unquiet of English provinces. From the fall of the ancient Northumbrian kingdom until the conquest of England by Cnut, the country between the Tees and the Scottish border seems to have been ruled almost continuously by the successive heads of the same native Northumbrian family. The fact that late in the tenth century the head of this house bore the Scandinavian name Waltheof suggests that at one point the succession may have passed through an heiress to a stranger, but the personal names borne by earlier members of the family reappear among Waltheof's descendants, and there is no doubt that they were regarded as possessing an hereditary claim to rule in the north. On several occasions the head of this house was appointed earl of Yorkshire by the king, and when Swein of Denmark landed in 1013, Uhtred, son of

Chilham's manors. After considering this reconciliation of Domesday Book records for "Sired" and also Searle's 1849 research work, Sired (Sigeraed, Canon of St Martin's Dover, Kent) is the Royal Thane in 1066 and the same man given by Clarke, English nobility, pp. 337-38, who ranks him fifty-seventh in wealth among untitled laymen. He is listed as a landowner at Dover and many other locations. Clarke further recognises Sibbi's son as the noble "Siward "Grossus".

[250] Open Domesday, Lords Godwin and Særic 1066, Somerset folio 18.

Most pointed is Dr Jensen (1968) research into the names of Earl Godwine's eight children. Included most usefully is Earl Godwine's daughter and wife Gyöa's daughter Aleuea / Ælfgifu / Ælfgyva according to PASE and Open Domesday translation experts, establishes her as the spousal of Sibi of Chilham Kent, and mother of brothers Sired of Chilham, Cannon of Dover otherwise known also to Domesday Book as Sigeraed of Chilham, Cannon of Dover and St Paul's London, and his two brothers Særic and Gest. [251]

Jansen confirms other important matters of a genealogical nature, that Ælfgyva, enjoyed mixed ethnicity, Brittonic on her father's side and Danish by her mother. This is what Jensen (1968, pp. LXIII-LXIV) writes:

daughter of *Þóra* as well, so that her Scandinavian name finds a natural explanation. A particularly interesting example is provided by the children of the famous Earl Godwine Wulfnoð's son of Wessex. Of his eight children, five have Scandinavian names, *Sveinn*, *Haraldr*, *Tósti*, *Gyrðr* and *Gunnhildr*, and three OE ones, *Lēofwine*, *Eādgȳð* and *Ælfgifu*. The Scandinavian names are naturally explained by the fact that their mother was Gyða, sister of Jarl Ulfr and aunt of Sveinn Ulfsson of Denmark.

The names of the children of Earl Godwine present another interesting feature, the lack of consistency in the origin of the names chosen.

Fellows Jensen – V

LXIV

In this case the inconsistency can be explained by the fact that the parents were of differing nationalities but this cannot always have been the case where names of varying origins are borne by brothers and sisters. There are a few early instances where full consistency is shown, namely in DB the brothers *Áki* and *Vígleikr*, the sons of *Sigvarðr*, and the brothers *Halfdan* and *Ulfr*, the sons of *Tópi*. Earl Godwine is not the only father, however, whom DB reveals to have been inconsistent in his choice of names. Another Godwine has four sons called *Ásketill*,

From this, we learn that Godwine, a Brittonic, is married to Gyöa, a Danish woman. Additionally, it is revealed that Ælfgyva's mother, Gyth, born "Gyöa", is the sister of Jarl Ulfr and the aunt of Sveinn Ulfsson. This makes Ælfgyva and Sveinn (Sweyn) cousins.[252]

Gyöa's brother, Ulf Thorgilsson, commonly known as Ulf Jarl or Earl Ulf, was a Danish jarl of Skåne regent of Denmark. His son, also mentioned above as Gyöa's nephew, is otherwise known as King Sweyn II of Denmark.

Gyöa, also known as by historians as "Gyda," and her siblings are all children of Thorgil Sprakaleg and some suppose wife Estrid (–1020), the daughter of Sven Forkbeard (died 1014) and Sigrid Storraade (c. 1000).[253]

[251] Attachment A - Reconstructing kinship groups through records triangulation: A methodological framework for family reconstitution.

[252] D.P. Kirby, Alfred P. Smyth, and Ann Williams (1991, p. 81). "A Biographical Dictionary of Dark Age Britain: England, Scotland and Wales c.500-c.1050". Earl Godwin's Danish wife, Gytha [Gyöa]. [mine].

[253] Lund, N. (2014). Biography of "Ulf Earl". Danish Biographical Encyclopedia, 3rd Edition. Published in 16 Volumes in the Period 1979-1984.The article cited for "Ulf Ear" was updated in 2014-16 along with almost 1,000 other biographies. Lund recognises Ulf's sister" Gyda" married Earl Godwin.

Saeric's maternal grandmother Gytha, Earl Godwine's widow

Recent research by Robert Higham[254] uncovers significant ties between figures from the House of Godwine and the House of Wessex during the surrounding 1066. Highland explores the relationships among pivotal personalities, including the Confessor and Gytha, as well as connections post-conquest.

Higham highlights an anonymous member of Gytha's family in Shrewsbury linked to the Abbey there and notes evidence gathered for this study shows that Ælfgyva father-in-law, Siward Gest of Chilham, (c. 990-1075) Bishop of Rochester, a significant figure of the time, migrated Shrewsbury before 1066 either the Applesham Nor or Guestling estate in Hastings, South, to take up the Confessor's generous offer of manors and land in and adjacent to shire of Shropshire, where he contributed to the establishment of the abbey.

Higham's findings also confirm the historical of the Godwine family in Exeter, with Saeric's brother, Sired who served as a junior Cannon at St Paul's Cathedral Lon from 1063, then Canon of Dover from early 1066, becoming after the conquest a senior Cannon of the Battle Abbey/St Martin's Abbey diocese established by William I by order of Pope Alexander II in 1070.

This entwined connection of ecclesial, genealogical, naming, and land succession facts sheds light on why Saeric's grandson, Benwoldus Gest, may have felt compelled to return to South Sussex around 1100-1141, to re-establish his family's lineage near Applesham Manor and Guestling, likely to be a significant place for Siward Grossus and his father Æthelgar.

The Confessor and Gytha are family members united by the marriage of Gytha's daughter, Edith (Ædgyth), and not to be confused with Ædgyth sister Ælfgifu / Aleuea, Sibi's spouse.

If the author's genealogical calculations are correct, this creates a further familial relationship between the Confessor's wife's sister, Ælfgyva's father-in-law, Siward of Chilham's Sibi's father and the Confessor.

Siward Grossus, is the father of Siward of Chilham after the family lines were reconstituted. This Siward is maternal grandson Edric Streona who married Ethelred II and Edith of York's daughter, sister Ædgyth to Edmund Ironside. Thus, this further makes Aleuea / Ælfgifu the Confessor's sister-in-law by marriage the spouse of Sibi of Chilham the Confessor's cousin by degree.

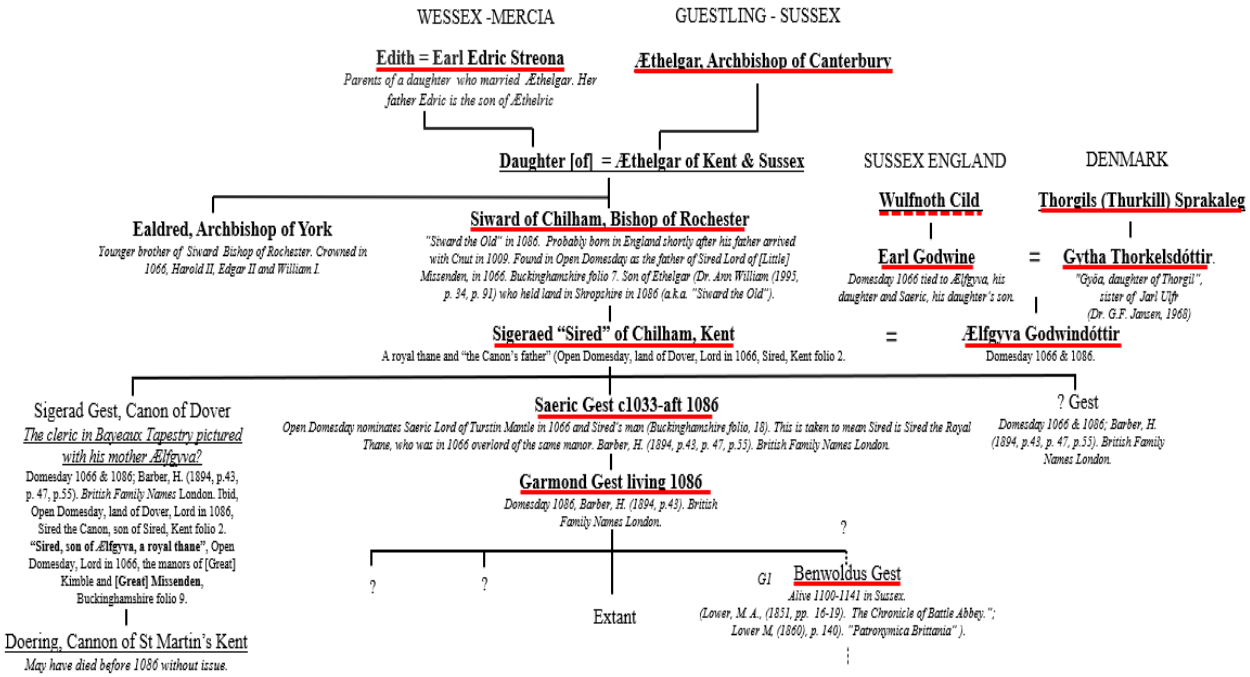
These familial connections would have been known to those, and this accounts for the Confessor's grace, which seems to have Siward significantly. As the Domesday Book records infer, he gifted the return of the forfeited land of his disgraced maternal grandfather, Edric Streona, who was executed by Cnut.

This may further account for some of Robert Higham's inferred posits regarding deeper but obscure familial ties that were not uncovered by his research. Although the present author arrives at this conclusion largely through independent arguments as set out above and positioned firmly against the foundation reconstituted family tree of many named in this group by Dr Ann Williams (1995, p. 91).

[254] Higham R. (2020, pp. 467-513). Chapter 23. "The Godwins, Towns and St Olaf Churches: Comital Investment in the Mid-11th Century." In Brill's Series on the Early Middle Ages Continuation of The Transformation of the Roman World. Volume 26. The Land of the English Kin Studies in Wessex and Anglo-Saxon England in Honour of Professor Barbara Yorke.

The united Gest, Godwine and Thorkelsdóttir lineage

Stepped out below is the three brothers' Sired (Sigeraed), Saeric and Gest's reconstituted maternal heritage and also their reconstituted patriline and cognatic upstream folk to royal pair Ethelred II and Edith of York.


WESSEX -MERCIA
GUESTLING - SUSSEX
Edith = Earl Edric Streona
Parents of a daughter who married Æthelgar. Her father Edric is the son of Æthelric
Æthelgar, Archbishop of Canterbury
Daughter [of] = Æthelgar of Kent & Sussex
SUSSEX ENGLAND
DENMARK
Wulfnoth Cild
Thorgils (Thurkill) Sprakaleg
Ealdred, Archbishop of York
Younger brother of Siward Bishop of Rochester. Crowned in 1066, Harold II, Edgar II and William I.
Siward of Chilham, Bishop of Rochester
"Siward the Old" in 1086. Probably born in England shortly after his father arrived with Cnut in 1009. Found in Open Domesday as the father of Sired Lord of [Little] Missenden, in 1066. Buckinghamshire folio 7. Son of Ethelgar (Dr. Ann William (1993, p. 34, p. 91) who held land in Shropshire in 1086 (a.k.a. "Siward the Old").
Earl Godwine
Domesday 1066 tied to Ælfgyva, his daughter and Saeric, his daughter's son.
=
Gytha Thorkelsdóttir.
"Gyða, daughter of Thorgil", sister of Jarl Ulfr (Dr. G.F. Jansen, 1968)
Sigeraed "Sired" of Chilham, Kent
A royal thane and "the Canon's father" (Open Domesday, land of Dover, Lord in 1066, Sired, Kent folio 2.
=
Ælfgyva Godwindóttir
Domesday 1066 & 1086.
Sigerad Gest, Canon of Dover
The cleric in Bayeaux Tapestry pictured with his mother Ælfgyva?
Domesday 1066 & 1086; Barber, H. (1894, p.43, p. 47, p.55). British Family Names London. Ibid, Open Domesday, land of Dover, Lord in 1086, Sired the Canon, son of Sired, Kent folio 2.
"Sired, son of Ælfgyva, a royal thane", Open Domesday, Lord in 1066, the manors of [Great] Kimble and [Great] Missenden, Buckinghamshire folio 9.
Saeric Gest c1033-aft 1086
Open Domesday nominates Saeric Lord of Turstin Mantle in 1066 and Sired's man (Buckinghamshire folio, 18). This is taken to mean Sired is Sired the Royal Thane, who was in 1066 overlord of the same manor. Barber, H. (1894, p.43, p. 47, p.55). British Family Names London.
? Gest
Domesday 1066 & 1086; Barber, H. (1894, p.43, p. 47, p.55). British Family Names London.
Garmond Gest living 1086
Domesday 1086, Barber, H. (1894, p.43). British Family Names London.
?
?
?
Extant
G1
Benwoldus Gest
Alive 1100-1141 in Sussex.
(Lower, M.A., (1851, pp. 16-19). The Chronicle of Battle Abbey."; Lower M. (1860), p. 140). "Patronymica Brittania").
Doering, Cannon of St Martin's Kent
May have died before 1086 without issue.

Ælfgyva as "Swan Neck"

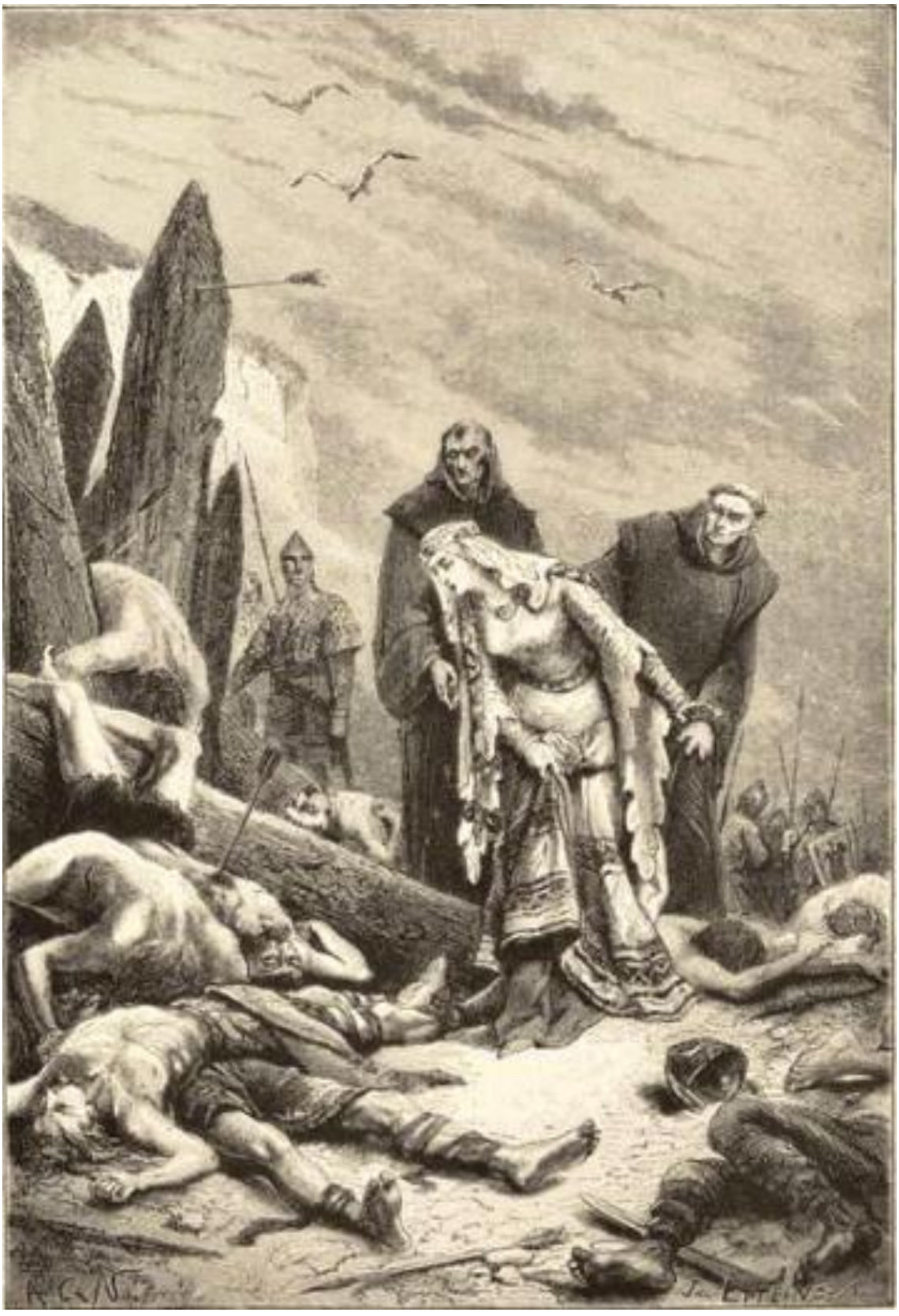
With due consideration of all of the known available facts and meshing well with the fresh evidence taken from a genealogical and Domesday record's perspective, it is challenging to accept the notion that Harold would have arranged for his wife, Edith (Ædgyth)[255] of Arundel Castle in West Sussex, to be the vicinity of the village of Hastings on the day of the battle.

Conversely, it is reasonable to believe that Harold aimed to keep his mother Countess Gytha and his wife Edith, away from the chaos of battle. It seems implausible that Harold's mother Gytha, and wife would be near the soldiers preparing for combat or returning from the battlefield, especially when they were focused on defeating Harold. This idea calls into question the that Edith who was likely safe with Gytha far away in Exeter that, later traversed the carnage from Hastings to the battlefield with two clerics to find and identify her husband Harold's body could be the women "Swan neck" present on the battlefield soon after the battled ended that day, 14th October 1066

In the mid-19th century, the popular poem linked to the image below was penned by an unknown author. Although many have appreciated the poem for its romantic appeal, it cannot be regarded as a factual representation of the women involved. In fact, it has misled modern historians in their quest to uncover the true identities of Swan Neck and the identities of the two clerics. [256]

[255] Not to be confused with Edith (Ædgyth), the Confessor's wife, Harold II's other sister important to this research.
[256] Christian Johann Heinrich Heine was born Harry Heine (1797-1856). He was a German poet, writer and literary critic. He is best known outside Germany for his early lyric poetry,

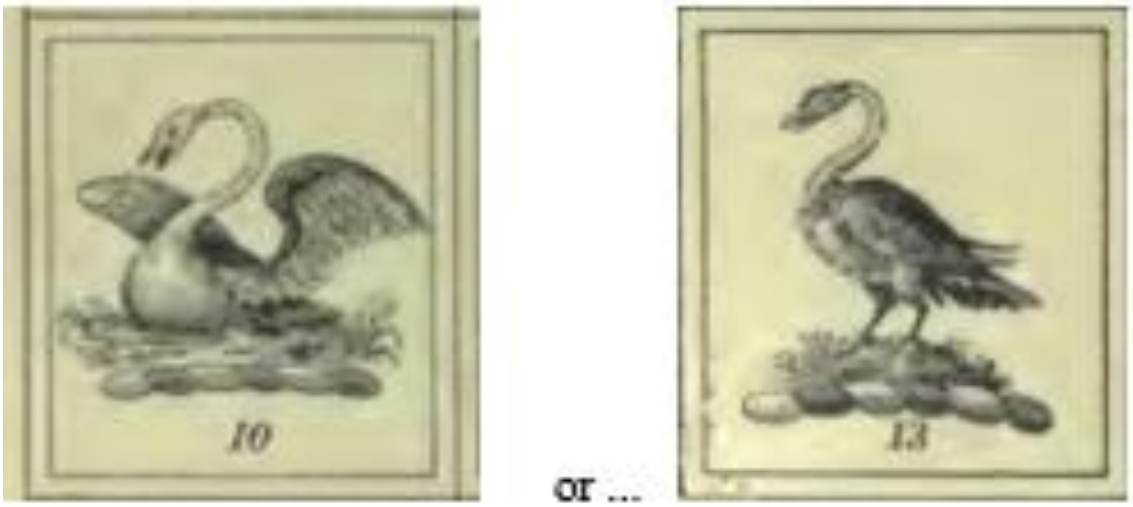
Whereas the conclusion Swan neck was Harold's sister daughter Aleuea / Ælfgifu / Ælfgyva, [257] the mother and grandmother of the two clerics rings true. Pictured below is an artist's impression likely to show Harold's sister Aleuea as Ælfgyva as perhaps "Swan Neck" and his nephew, cleric Sigeraed, and grandnephew cleric Doering, on the battlefield:



[257] Open Domesday, Waldridge, Overlords in 1066: Ælfgyva, Earl Harold's sister. Buckinghamshire folio 4. Also: Phillimore reference: Buckinghamshire 4,21.

The story that it was Harold's wife Edith who identified him is so compelling by the writings of poets and romantics that memorials like the one shown below have been built. However, the author is concerned that an additional plaque may be necessary to accurately represent the historical account based on the positive identification of Ælfgyva, Harold's sister:

To address any lingering concern that "Ælfgyva" as "Swan neck" may be a distortion of the truth, the author consulted the technical and heraldic of the "Swan neck" as a heraldic motif. It was discovered that this motif was first depicted in a heraldic dictionary dating back to the 13th century: [258] [259]



Extracted from a facsimile of the original book as originally drawn and two versions shown above, and used more extensivity by heralds for family arms from the 16th century. This is when the Swan became popular and the Swan neck (Shoveler) head and neck most popular coinciding with the reign of Elizabeth I.

Coincidentally, this was also the period when Giles Guest's [260] paternal nephew, Bishop Edmund Guest, served as Her Majesty's Chief Almoner.

[258] Fairbairn, J. (1911). "Fairbairn's Crests of the Leading Families in Great Britain and Ireland and their Kindred in Other Lands." Compiled from the best authorities by James Fairbairn. Revised by Laurence Butters, Seal Engraver in ordinary to the Queen. Edited by Joseph MacLaren.
[259] Ibid, Fairbairn (1911, p. 219); see also motto attribution, "Neither rashly nor timidly" (page 569).
[260] First of the Guest patronymic family to be record in authentic record with the modern English spelling Guest in 1623.

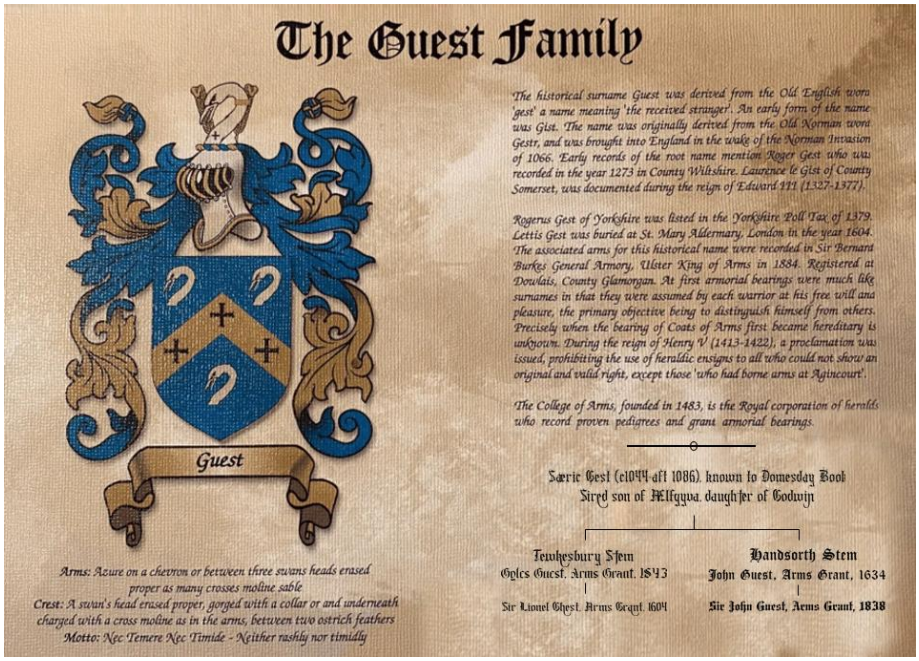
The notion that Ælfgyva was the woman accompanying the clerics is as intriguing as the belief that his wife, Edith, is frail. Ælfgyva, who resided near Hastings in the Gest/Guest family's manor at Applesham, probably did not remain there that day for the same reasons as the movement of the conqueror's army.

While she may have expected her husband and son to fight alongside Harold, the Conqueror instead permitted Sigeraed and his son Deoring to support their mother and local clergy in seeking refuge, likely at the church in Hastings. The only conclusion that can be drawn from the evidence is that the legendary figure known as "Swan Neck," along with two clerics scouring the battlefield that afternoon for Harold's body, were Ælfgyva, Harold’s sister, and her son Sired, Canon of Dover, accompanied by his son, Doering, the younger canon of St. Martin’s in Dover, Kent.

Their alignment with the Conqueror, coupled with Harold being their uncle and granduncle, made well-suited to assist their mother and grandmother in identifying. The author's intrigue with the mysterious Ælfgyva and the cleric depicted in the Bayeux Tapestry stemmed from discovering the familial ties and residences of the cleric's relatives in Hastings on October 14, 1066. This interest also encompasses the Shovelers, particularly their distinguished necks, which may have inspired the contemporary narrative to refer to them as the more graceful 'Swan head and neck.'

This illustration emphasises the woman's beauty and connects two significant artifacts associated with Ælfgyva, the Cleric, and her family's genealogical heritage. If we accept that the provenance of the Guest family's armorial design originates from Saeric's 1066 banner, traditionally displayed as a flag or standard, the prominent swan head and neck imagery serve, perhaps, as a metaphor for Ælfgyva’s three sons.

This design not only reflects the prominent swan head of the House of Gest but also incorporates the "azure" (blue) background emblem attributed to Wessex. Did Saeric carry this ensign alongside his grandfather Siward and granduncle Ealdred, along with the traditional Wessex standard featuring the two-legged, winged dragon, into Berkhamsted with Edgar II’s men when Edgar signed the agreement with the Duke of Normandy in December 1066? This scenario is indeed plausible in light of the new evidence and arguments presented throughout this study:


The Guest Family
'The historical surname Guest was derived from the Old English word 'gest' a name meaning 'the received stranger'. An early form of the name was Gist. The name was originally derived from the Old Norman word Gestr, and was brought into England in the wake of the Norman Invasion of 1066. Early records of the root name mention Roger Gest who was recorded in the year 1273 in County Wiltshire. Laurence le Gist of County Somerset, was documented during the reign of Edward III (1327-1377).
Rogerus Gest of Yorkshire was listed in the Yorkshire Poll Tax of 1379. Lettis Gest was buried at St. Mary Aldermary, London in the year 1604. The associated arms for this historical name were recorded in Sir Bernard Burkes General Armory, Ulster King of Arms in 1884. Registered at Dowlais, County Glamorgan. At first armorial bearings were much like surnames in that they were assumed by each warrior at his free will and pleasure, the primary objective being to distinguish himself from others. Precisely when the bearing of Coats of Arms first became hereditary is unknown. During the reign of Henry V (1413-1422), a proclamation was issued, prohibiting the use of heraldic ensigns to all who could not show an original and valid right, except those 'who had borne arms at Agincourt'.
The College of Arms, founded in 1483, is the Royal corporation of heralds who record proven pedigrees and grant armorial bearings.
Guest
Arms: Azure on a chevron or between three swans heads erased proper as many crosses moline sable
Crest: A swan's head erased proper, gorged with a collar or and underneath charged with a cross moline as in the arms, between two ostrich feathers
Motto: Nec Temere Nec Timide - Neither rashly nor timidly
Særic Gest (c1044 afl 1086), known to Domesday Book
Sired son of Ælfgyva, daughter of Godwin
Tewkesbury Stem
Giles Guest, Arms Grant, 1543
Sir Lionel Gest, Arms Grant, 1604
Handsworth Stem
John Guest, Arms Grant, 1634
Sir John Guest, Arms Grant, 1838

PART 8 – THE FAMILIA'S RESPONSE TO THE CRISIS OF 1066

Sigeraed, Ælfgyva & the cleric's conscription march from Hastings to Wallingford

Alueua, known as Ælfgyva, sister of Earl Harold, and her son Sired (Sigeraed) of Chilham, Canon of Dover, likely found themselves hostages of the Conqueror. Given the family ties to the widow of Edward the Confessor, former Queen Edith, who was respected by William I, it is speculated that Sired was held in a soft custodial manner to facilitate a peaceful resolution of the succession crisis between Edgar II and William following the 1066 invasion.

From this point, it can be hypothesised that Sired of Chilham, Canon of Dover, became a diplomat tasked with negotiating with Edgar II's peace party and various family members starting October 14, 1066. This scenario suggests that Sired travelled with the Conqueror to help broker while ensuring William's coronation and Edgar II's dethronement, embarking on a challenging journey from Hastings to Wallingford.

They likely felt uneasy about the prospect of a peace that required them to be offerings in the Conqueror's quest to meet Edgar II. It seems they were exchanged for Cardinal of Canterbury, Stigand, at Wallingford.

Ironically in this scenario, Ælfgyva and Sigeraed (Sired) may have found some solace after the Battle of Hastings on October 14, nearing December 1066, knowing that both of their surviving sons had been elevated to significant roles on opposing sides of the monarchical crisis.

Sired’s brother Saeric, also certain son of Aleuea, served the peace party of Edgar II at Amersham, while elder son, Canon Sigeraed, played a key role as Pope Alexander II's field representative and the Conqueror's clergyman. It appears both were instrumental in the bilateral negotiations that ultimately led to a relatively peaceful resolution of the crisis. The brothers, caught unexpectedly opposing sides as news of the impending invasions reached them, found themselves in a perilous situation.

The Canon of Dover, while conducting his clerical duties, became involved in secret pre-invasion plans, posing a grave risk to himself and his family. Nevertheless, he provided a strategic communication link that aided the Duke of Normandy's ascent to the English throne and may have helped preserve the remnants of the House of Wessex a likely goal of both Pope Alexander II and the Conqueror, who were extended family. In essence, the Pope and the Conqueror had a valuable ally in the of Dover, the maternal nephew of the Confessor's widow Edith, who was respected by both men.

Living as neighbours in the north at Amersham, the Canon's brother, Saeric, surrounded Siward the Old, his great grandfather, and his aunt sister of Aleuea and the slain Herold II, was Earl Harold, Edward the Confessor’s widow Edith, was also positioned to facilitate negotiations aimed at amicably resolving the Edgar the Atheling dilemma in favour of the duke, should he triumph over Harold II at Hastings. As history shows, he did.

The documented history of the English autumn of 1066 obscures how the relatively peaceful truce between Edgar II and the Conqueror was actually reached at Berkhamsted in December 1066. Reminder present readers, that part presented in this book, is not to be interpreted or claimed as fact, but offers a plausible scenario to help fill the gap in our understanding.

This reconstruction brings into sharp focus a plausible explanation of the high level, highly invested and personal involvement, of two brothers, Saeric and the Cleric Sigeraed/Sired, sons of Ælfgyva and Sigeraed of Chilham Kent and the Manors of Applesham/Guestling (East Sussex), played out in absolute secrecy to make possible exchange of Cardinal Stigand at Wallingford, a change of direction from a possible confrontation at Oxford with the 15-year old recent ward of the Confessor’s widow Edith, Edgar II’s, his Saxon nobles and the Witan backing at the time Edgar, and their emerging peace party of Amersham, to make a sudden change of direction to meet with Edgar II’s peace party at Berkhamsted, located on the adjoining north east tip of Edith’s Amersham property to completed the desired peaceful truce.

The widely accepted notion that Edgar the Atheling (Edgar), the 15-year-old king was weak and surrendered without conditions is speculative. A more detailed perspective on the meeting Berkhamsted takes into account the continued existence of the Wessex-Godwin family since 1066. It also highlights that both II and the Conqueror respected the agreements established before Berkhamsted, with the help of Saeric and Sigeraed, who as family diplomats, couriers, and messengers of terms.

In this agreement, Edgar II gave up his claim to the throne, in exchange, King William I bestowed the kiss peace upon Edgar and his followers starting December 25, 106. Edgar lived a long life, outlasting all his peers, and passed away around the age of 75 in 1126. He had freedom to move in and out of William I court, and despite his indiscretions in 1069 and subsequent apology in Normandy in 1074, he remained in court without incident until William's death in 1087. Afterward, was compelled to align with William's warring sons and stayed involved in Anglo-Norman courts until he retired from public life around 1106.

The survival of his remaining family members from the united houses of Wessex and Godwin is reflected in Mirrored. This includes his sisters: Princess Margaret, who became Queen Margret of Scotland; Christina, who lived with Edgar until 1066 before joining the nunnery at Wilton, Wiltshire; and Edith, who passed away in 107 from natural causes and was buried with honor at Westminster Abbey, having lost none of her movable wealth or real prior to the conquest.

Additionally, there are Saeric and Cleric Sigeraed, descendants of Ethelred II and Edith York, and maternally linked to Earl Godwin and Countess Gytha, their grandparents,[261]and nephews of the Confessor's widow Edith, former recent Queen of England.

Sigeraed, the Cleric elevated to a senior cannon on King William I's Battle of Abbey diocese he established, and Saeric becoming, the King's thegn, and personally endowed by demesne manor and land by1086, that is to say, the rarely given personal property in fee simple, and free of sub-tenants.

At Wallingford, it's easy to see that Saeric fulfilled his promises. Cardinal Stigand willingly exchanged places after their brief journey west from Amersham to meet the Conqueror, negotiating the release of Sigeraed's parents to Saeric. They returned to Amersham with Sigeraed, who would represent the Conqueror and Pope Alexander II in a final pre-Berkhamsted discussion with Edgar II's peace delegation at Edith's home, Amersham Manor.

The foundation of mutual trust among the key figures-Conqueror, Pope Alexander II, brothers Saeric and Sigeraed, the Canon of Dover, and Cardinal Stigand of Canterbury-can be traced to Stigand's decision to leave Edgar II's court at Amersham in December 6 to stay with the Conqueror.

This trust stemmed from their shared awareness that the couriers delivering terms for a settlement were the great-grandsons of Æthelgar, the Archbishop of Canterbury from the Saxon Church of Rome. Cardinal Stigand, familiar with the sons of Ælfgyva and Sigeraed, acknowledged the close ties within this geographic papal circuit in Kent and Sussex.

[261] Included the House of Gest with descent from both the Wessex and Godwine houses and united by the marriage of Sigeraed Gest of Chilham Kent and Ælfgyva a, Earl Godwin and Countess Gytha's daughter.

Guest-Godwin-Wessex family member placement in England’s midlands Autumn 1066

Staying closely aligned with the recent evidence of individuals' locations in September 1066, and extending the theory, historical records do in fact point to a plausible narrative of Edgar II’s peace party or some other negation party gathering in Amersham, Berkshire, in midlands England before Edgar II’s surrender.

Peace party is a plausible term because none of these actors died after surrendering to the Conqueror. In fact, the Domesday Book attests to Saeric winding up better off and holding, among the very few subjects of William I, freehold property in some volume. While all the others mentioned in this part of the book and many tied to Dr. Williams' research experienced dwindling land and property holdings post-conquest, none of them were plunged into poverty and lived out their lives relatively free and not incarcerated.

This is not to imply that there wasn't a dispute or social separation from the King during his 21-year reign, as there certainly was. However, in the case of Edgar and his sister, reconciliation also took place.

At Amersham, well before December 1066 and likely from the time Harold II marched north to York, assembled as familiar embassy, was those close to Aleva’s and Sired of Chilman, Cannon of Dover, and alive is uncertain Sibi of Chilham and also Sired and Saeric’s brother Gest, perhaps perished in the battle or aftermath at Hasting in October 1066.

Edith, the widow of the Confessor and sister of Aleva, received support from Siwardus the Elder Siward Grossus), his son Siward of Chilham, Sibi’s father, and his uncle Ealdred. Together, they were recognised by Domesday Holdings as having an interest in Amersham/Little of Great Missenden, and they formed a knowledgeable and respected delegation for Edgar II during his and Edith's time of need.

Hence considered tenable, Edgar II’s royal court from the 15th October, 1066, after Stigand and other Witan members anointed him, King Edgar II. His peace part thereby may have comprised around ten and all known by record to have survived and the members and have good cause to be Amersham, Midland England from 1066.

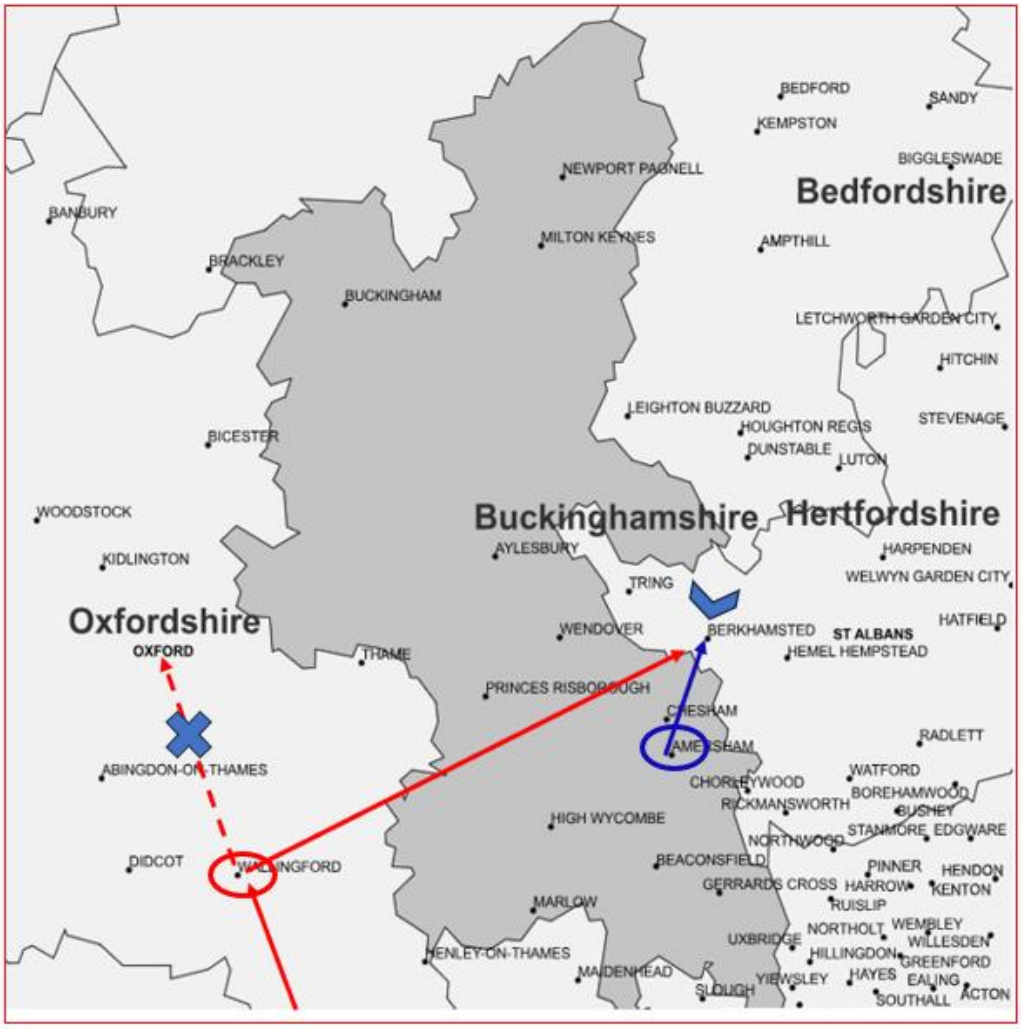
The Amersham Peace Party being a gathered place at Edith’s Manor as a royal court until they departed with the Conquer from nearby Berkhamsted for London in mid-December 1066.

This group included Edith (Ædgyth), the widow of the Confessor a respected figure, along with -year-old King Edgar II, his sisters, Margaret and Christina, Saeric, and his parents, Sigeraed and Ælfgyva, her grandfather Thurkill, and his associates, Siward and Eadred, respectively Sigeraed, the elders’ father and uncle.

In this scenario, the family would exchange their peace plan at Wallingford, with likely brothers negotiating for opposing sides, yet united in their singular goal of ensuring the survival and well-being of their loved ones. Saeric and Sired (Sigeraed) would finalize the arrangements for the Conqueror's plans at Berkhamsted, aided by trusted diplomatic messengers from both sides, who conveyed vital information between the parties.

Plausible to say is that Saeric may have aligned himself with Edgar II, but he also impressed the Conqueror, securing peace with both Edgar II and Edith, the widow of the Confessor, whom he is known to hold in high regard.

Thereby, in good faith and through diplomacy, Edgar (who reigned from October to December 1066)[262] and his royal entourage agreed to meet at Berkhamsted the following day. They would make a brief journey from the Manor of Amersham, traveling .2 miles northeast to reach their destination:



Enter Archbishop of Canterbury, Stigand, who probably left Amersham to meet with the Conqueror and convey the news that Edgar II's peace party would meet with him at Berkhamsted.

It is important to note that by the time the agreement to meet was made, extensive negotiations had already taken place between the Conqueror and the Wessex-Godwin family in Amersham, facilitated by the Conqueror's and messenger. This messenger was also a family member, albeit estranged at that time: Siward's grandson, Saeric, who was the brother of Edith and the maternal nephew of Cannon of Dover, Sired/Sigeraed of Chilam.

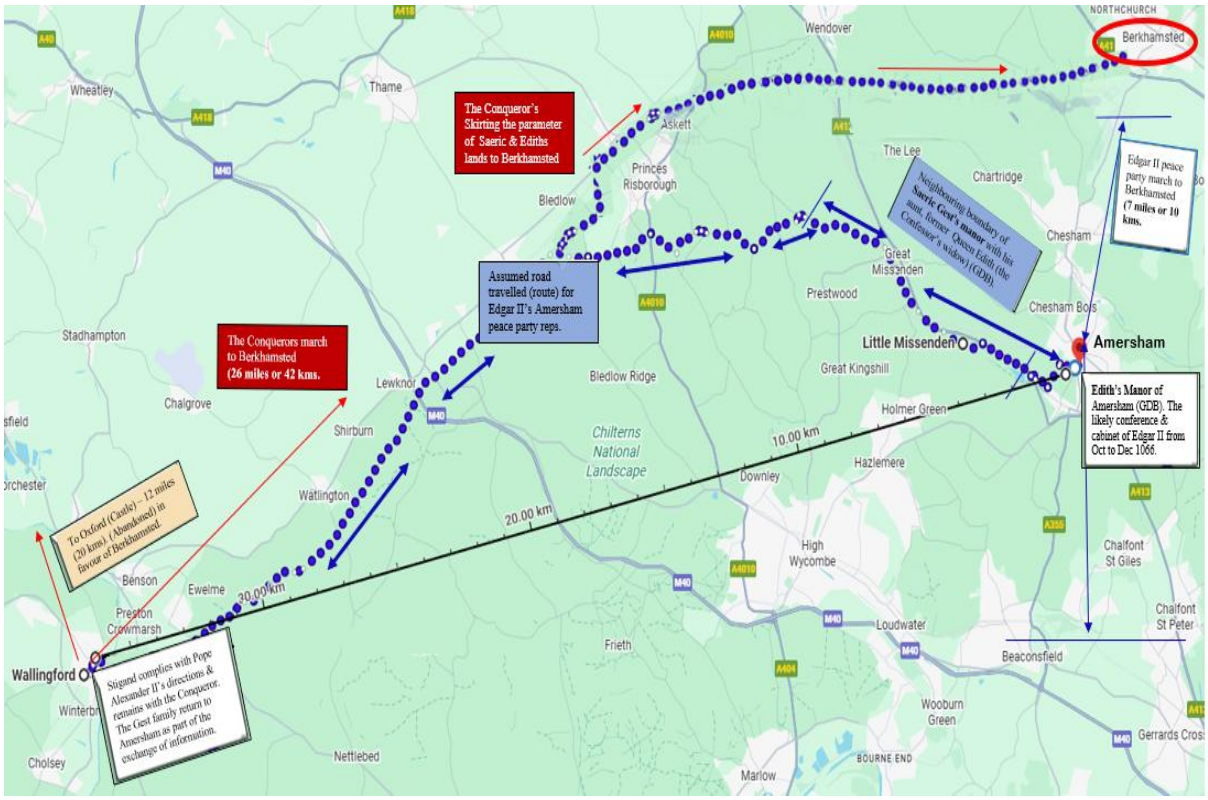
At Berkhamsted final terms were agreed, perhaps at the most an exchange of signatures resulting in Edgar II's agreement to abdicate his rights to the throne whilst ensuring the safety of his inner circle, particularly the surviving members of his Wessex-Godwine family.

All and sundry travelling onto London with the Conqueror as their guard and on December 25, 1066. The Conquer became the first Anglo-Norman King, and last Saxon King Edgar, the Conquerors cousin by degree welcomed into William's court.

[262] Ibid, Royal UK, Edgar II (r. Oct-Dec 1066.

It is further known Saeric grandfather and his brother given the promise of peace by William I, Edith not losing any of her moveable and fixed property wealth, and Saeric faring well personally under William I and brother Sired/Sigeraed of Chilham becoming a senior Cannon in William I’s personal project the Battle of Abbey diocese encapsulating the village and hundred of Guestlynge in East Sussex.

That said, historians have long debated whether Edgar II was on the run and in hiding since October 15 1066, until his meeting with the Duke at Berkhamsted in December 1066. This claim is disputed and this study strongly suggests that he was in the vicinity of Amersham, Edith’s home and he would still have regraded the place as his home and so too his sisters Princess Margaret and Princess Christina:



Remembering that Harold's army's movements from Stamford Bridge through London to Hastings to confront the Conqueror’s invading forces suggest that some family members survived massacre on October 14, 1066 likely because they were far from Hastings.

Later whilst the pre-surrender negotiations played out between the peace parties on the side of Edgar II and the Conqueror pivotal at Amersham, Aleuea likely held in light in a church at Hastings, protected by her grandson son, the Canon, Deoring and remaining under the Conqueror's commanded safeguard.

Her husband, the cleric's father Sibi, may have either survived or perished during the Battle of Hastings, as suggested by their son Gest. The only evidence we have about them comes from the Domesday Book of 1086, which traces back to their lives around 1066.

Could Aleuea, also known as Ælfgifu or Ælfgyva, be the same Ælfgifu referenced by PASE and Domesday translation experts? This figure was romanticised in a 19th-century poem as the woman accompanying two clerics who searched the battlefield for Harold's lifeless body—not as Harold's wife Edith as his sister Aleuea, as reflected in the Domesday Book, which documents their sibling relationship.

Confirmation by Freeman of several family members present with Edgar II at Berkhamsted

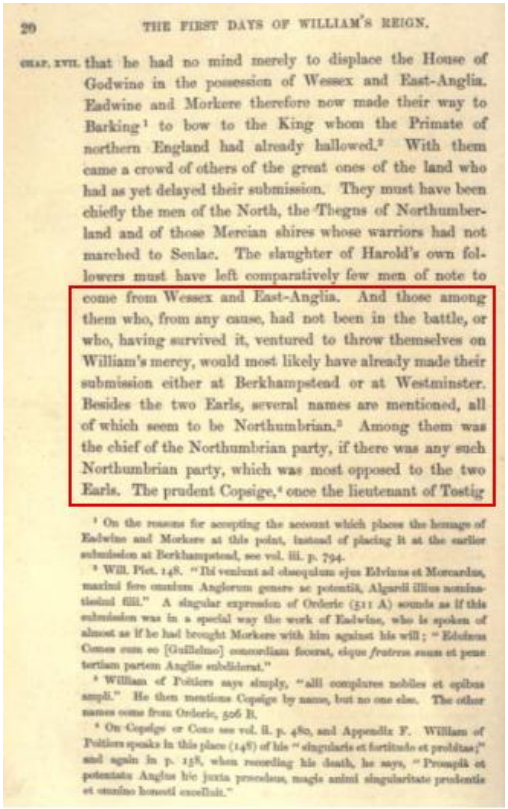
On page 19 of Freeman's 1876 research, he makes for the connection of Siward, and Edric, with the latter certain to be the grandfather of Siward and Eadred. Comparing this connection with Dr Ann Williams research, in particular her genealogical table for the Guest-Wessex family per se, a couple of observations is made by the present researcher and author.

Dr. Ann Williams (1995, p. 91) and additional research help to identify Freemen as error-prone figures Siward Grossus and Siward Barn, connected to Northumbria. Nonetheless, this compilation serves as a useful resource, not unlike the more detailed and descriptive narrative presented in this book, which aims to hypothesize the of these significant players between October and December 1066. If not this, then what were these people doing?

It is also essential to address the potential misidentification of the two brothers Siward and Ealdred by Freeman, as there were two prominent pairs during that time. Siward Grossus (the Fat), who died in 1075 and was also referred to as "Siward the Old" 1066, was well-positioned in Amersham/Berkhamsted, where he held estates nearby to his offspring and extended family enjoyed through spousal unions.

These unions bring into play Harold II's sister and sister of Aleuea, Edith, the Confessor's widow and no doubt her custodial ward so to speak the young King elect, Edgar II only 15 years old and seemingly unlikely to survive the conquest, but did and lived a long-life.

Furthermore, Siward Grossus, as Williams in 1995 recognised and captured is a descendant of Ethelred II and Edith of York, making him a blood relative the Confessor giving Siward Grossus a far stronger candidate and of good reason to be in political orbit of Edgar the Atheling as Edgar II between October and December 1066. Freeman does not rate Edgar II to give him a line in following passages, but it is fair to presumed Edgar political/royal status as King elect and pivotal like William the Conqueror to be the reason why those he names as powerful assembled at Berkhamsted to resolve the last monarchical succession crisis of 1066: .



20 THE FIRST DAYS OF WILLIAM'S REIGN.

CHAP. XVII. that he had no mind merely to displace the House of Godwine in the possession of Wessex and East-Anglia. Eadwine and Morkere therefore now made their way to Barking[1] to bow to the King whom the Primate of northern England had already hallowed.[2] With them came a crowd of others of the great ones of the land who had as yet delayed their submission. They must have been chiefly the men of the North, the Thegns of Northumberland and of those Mercian shires whose warriors had not marched to Senlac. The slaughter of Harold's own followers must have left comparatively few men of note to come from Wessex and East-Anglia. And those among them who, from any cause, had not been in the battle, or who, having survived it, ventured to throw themselves on William's mercy, would most likely have already made their submission either at Berkhampstead or at Westminster. Besides the two Earls, several names are mentioned, all of which seem to be Northumbrian.[3] Among them was the chief of the Northumbrian party, if there was any such Northumbrian party, which was most opposed to the two Earls. The prudent Copsige,[4] once the lieutenant of Tostig

[1] On the reasons for accepting the account which places the homage of Eadwine and Morkere at this point, instead of placing it at the earlier submission at Berkhampstead, see vol. iii. p. 794.

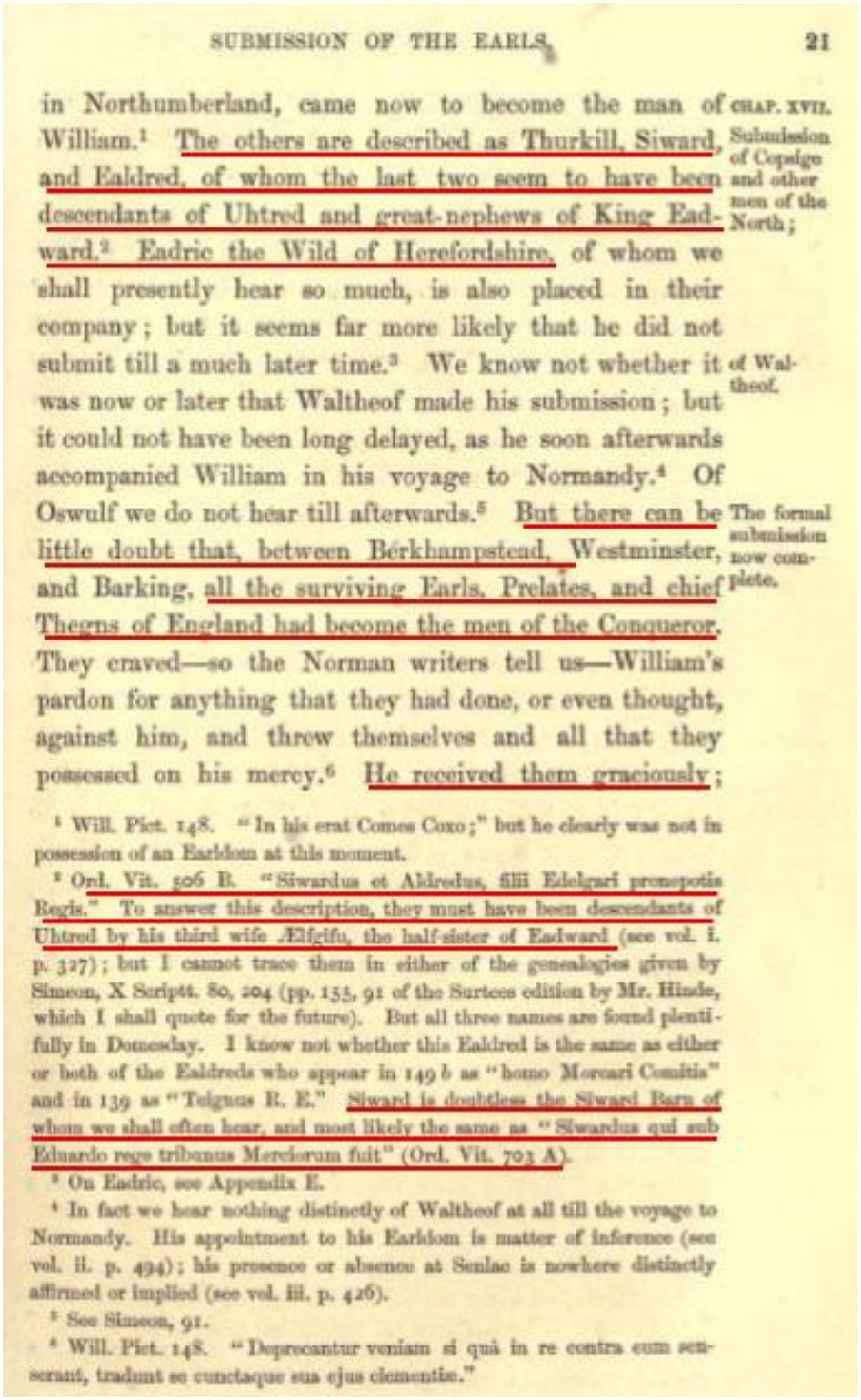
[2] Will. Pict. 148. "Ibi veniunt ad obsequium ejus Edvinus et Morcardus, maximi fere omnium Anglorum genere ac potentiâ, Algardi illius nominatissimi filii." A singular expression of Orderic (511 A) sounds as if this submission was in a special way the work of Eadwine, who is spoken of almost as if he had brought Morkere with him against his will; "Edulfeus Comes cum eo [Guillelmo] concordiam fecerat, cujus *fratrem* suum et pene tertiam partem Anglie subdiderat."

[3] William of Poitiers says simply, "alii complures nobiles et opibus ampli." He then mentions Copsige by name, but no one else. The other names come from Orderic, 506 B.

[4] On Copsige or Cosi see vol. ii. p. 480, and Appendix F. William of Poitiers speaks in this place (148) of his "singularis et fortitudo et probitas;" and again in p. 158, when recording his death, he says, "Promptâ et potentatu Anglus hic juxta præcedens, magis animi singularitate prudentiæ et studio honesti excelluit."

Freeman, in his narrative, successfully identifies the names of the siblings Ealdred and Siward, even though he mistakenly does not pair them with their actual brothers, Siward Grossus and Eadred, sons of Ethelgar.

It's likely that Freeman would have benefited from consulting Dr. Ann Williams' (1995, 91), genealogical reconstruction table for their family but impossible given it comae a century later. He no doubt would have reconsider his assertion that Siward Barn and his brother were the correct pair. While Siward Barn is undoubtedly connected to Edward, this connection equally applies to Siward Grossus, particularly regarding the familial relationships prominent among those in Edgar II's circle during that time and in the Amersham area of greater Berkhamsted.



SUBMISSION OF THE EARLS. 21

CHAP. XVII.

Submission of Copsige and other men of the North;

of Waltheof.

The formal submission now complete.

in Northumberland, came now to become the man of William.[1] The others are described as Thurkill, Siward, and Ealdred, of whom the last two seem to have been descendants of Uhtred and great-nephews of King Eadward.[2] Eadric the Wild of Herefordshire, of whom we shall presently hear so much, is also placed in their company; but it seems far more likely that he did not submit till a much later time.[3] We know not whether it was now or later that Waltheof made his submission; but it could not have been long delayed, as he soon afterwards accompanied William in his voyage to Normandy.[4] Of Oswulf we do not hear till afterwards.[5] But there can be little doubt that, between Berkhampstead, Westminster, and Barking, all the surviving Earls, Prelates, and chief Thegns of England had become the men of the Conqueror. They craved—so the Norman writers tell us—William's pardon for anything that they had done, or even thought, against him, and threw themselves and all that they possessed on his mercy.[6] He received them graciously;

[1] Will. Pict. 148. "In his erat Comes Coxo;" but he clearly was not in possession of an Earldom at this moment.

[2] Ord. Vit. 506 B. "Siwardus et Aldredus, filii Edelgari pronepotis Regis." To answer this description, they must have been descendants of Uhtred by his third wife Ælfgifu, the half-sister of Eadward (see vol. i. p. 327); but I cannot trace them in either of the genealogies given by Simeon, X Scriptt. 80, 204 (pp. 155, 91 of the Surtees edition by Mr. Hinde, which I shall quote for the future). But all three names are found plentifully in Domesday. I know not whether this Ealdred is the same as either or both of the Ealdreds who appear in 149 *b* as "homo Morcari Comitis" and in 139 as "Teignus R. E." Siward is doubtless the Siward Barn of whom we shall often hear, and most likely the same as "Siwardus qui sub Eduardo rege tribunus Merciorum fuit" (Ord. Vit. 703 A).

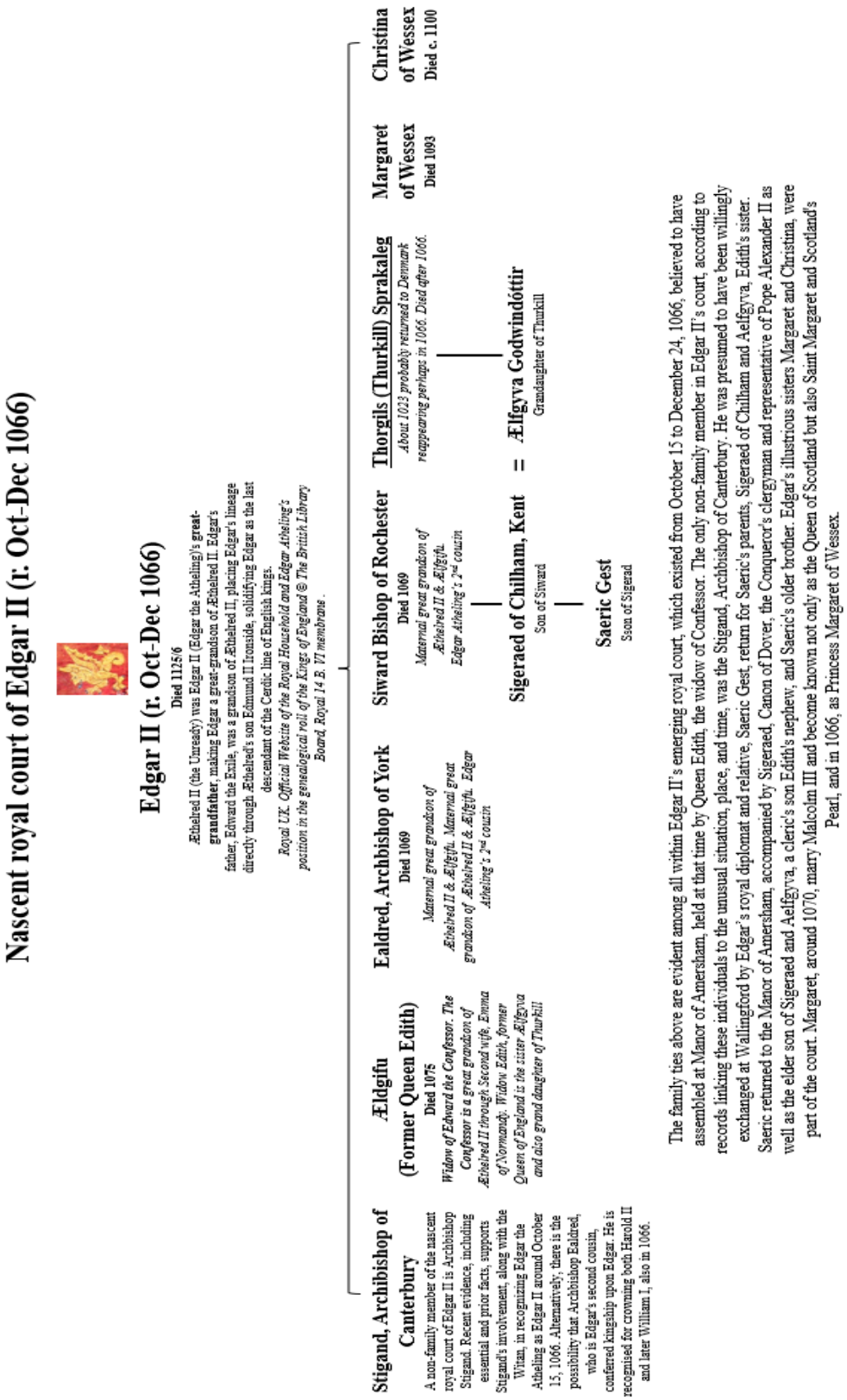
[3] On Eadric, see Appendix E.

[4] In fact we hear nothing distinctly of Waltheof at all till the voyage to Normandy. His appointment to his Earldom is matter of inference (see vol. ii. p. 494); his presence or absence at Senlac is nowhere distinctly affirmed or implied (see vol. iii. p. 426).

[5] See Simeon, 91.

[6] Will. Pict. 148. "Deprecantur veniam si quâ in re contra eum seu-serant, tradunt se cunctaque sua ejus clementiæ."

Useful is Freeman's account [263]revealing Siward, and Ealdred brothers served as royal diplomats for Edgar II at Berkhamsted, alongside Thorgils (Thurkill Sprakalegg), a Danish nobleman and father of Countess Gytha, who was married to Earl Godwin. Godwin and Gytha are the parents of Siward Grossus the Old's great at daughter-in-law, Aeluvea spouse of Sibi of Chilham through modern reconstruction and Aleuea also known also Ælfgyva.


Nascent royal court of Edgar II (r. Oct-Dec 1066)
Edgar II (r. Oct-Dec 1066)
Died 1125/6
Æthelred II (the Unready) was Edgar II (Edgar the Atheling)'s great-grandfather, making Edgar a great-grandson of Æthelred II. Edgar's father, Edward the Exile, was a grandson of Æthelred II, placing Edgar's lineage directly through Æthelred's son Edmund II Ironside, solidifying Edgar as the last descendant of the Cerdic line of English kings.
Royal UK. Official Website of the Royal Household and Edgar Atheling's position in the genealogical roll of the Kings of England © The British Library Board, Royal 14 B. VI membrane.
Stigand, Archbishop of Canterbury
A non-family member of the nascent royal court of Edgar II is Archbishop Stigand. Recent evidence, including essential and prior facts, supports Stigand's involvement, along with the Witan, in recognizing Edgar the Atheling as Edgar II around October 15, 1066. Alternatively, there is the possibility that Archbishop Ealdred, who is Edgar's second cousin, conferred kingship upon Edgar. He is recognised for crowning both Harold II and later William I, also in 1066.
Ældgifu (Former Queen Edith)
Died 1075
Widow of Edward the Confessor. The Confessor is a great grandson of Æthelred II through Second wife, Emma of Normandy. Widow Edith, former Queen of England is the sister Ælfgyva and also grand daughter of Thurkill
Ealdred, Archbishop of York
Died 1069
Maternal great grandson of Æthelred II & Ælfgifu. Maternal great grandson of Æthelred II & Ælfgifu. Edgar Atheling's 2nd cousin
Siward Bishop of Rochester
Died 1069
Maternal great grandson of Æthelred II & Ælfgifu. Edgar Atheling's 2nd cousin
Thorgils (Thurkill) Sprakaleg
About 1023 probably returned to Denmark reappearing perhaps in 1066. Died after 1066.
Margaret of Wessex
Died 1093
Christina of Wessex
Died c. 1100
Sigeraed of Chilham, Kent
Son of Siward
Saeric Gest
Sson of Sigerad
= Ælfgyva Godwindóttir
Grandaughter of Thurkill
The family ties above are evident among all within Edgar II's emerging royal court, which existed from October 15 to December 24, 1066, believed to have assembled at Manor of Amersham, held at that time by Queen Edith, the widow of Confessor. The only non-family member in Edgar II's court, according to records inking these individuals to the unusual situation, place, and time, was the Stigand, Archbishop of Canterbury. He was presumed to have been willingly exchanged at Wallingford by Edgar's royal diplomat and relative, Saeric Gest, return for Saeric's parents, Sigeraed of Chilham and Aelfgyva, Edith's sister. Saeric returned to the Manor of Amersham, accompanied by Sigeraed, Canon of Dover, the Conqueror's clergyman and representative of Pope Alexander II as well as the elder son of Sigeraed and Aelfgyva, a cleric's son Edith's nephew, and Saeric's older brother. Edgar's illustrious sisters Margaret and Christina, were part of the court. Margaret, around 1070, marry Malcolm III and become known not only as the Queen of Scotland but also Saint Margaret and Scotland's Pearl, and in 1066, as Princess Margaret of Wessex.

[263] Freeman, E. A. (1876, pp. 21-22). The History of the Norman Conquest of England.

Scene-15 of Bayeaux Tapestry, re-told by fresh evidence

Briefly, the close-up image of the two birds in the top margin of scene 15 of the Bayeux Tapestry may either represent the separation of close-knit brothers, Sired and Saeric sons of Aleuea as *Ælfgyva.* Moore's 2015 research explores the probability the two bords are more doves or pigeons. Could they signify her sons as messengers, negotiators of peace? :

Moreover, and speculatively speaking is the Cleric with Ælfgyva her husband Sibi of Chilham, Senior Canon of Dover? Is the male nude figure of the body of Aleuea as Ælfgyva, her son Sired (Sigeraed) of Chilham, Cannon of Dover, Saeric's brother?

Then there is the question of the t*wo legged, winged, dragon?* The dragon depicted at the bottom margin beneath the cleric and the abbey image may be associated with the cleric's Saxon lineage and Wessex heritage. In scene 57, at Hastings, the Wessex dragon standard is trampled by a horse just before Harold meets a similar fate.[264] This representation in scene 15 that it is the cleric, not his mother, who belongs to the Wessex family of Ethelred II and Edith of York.

[264] Ibid, Moore (2015, p. 110). See also Moore's footnote 145, Scene 57; W 71.

TENABLE ANCIENT GUEST FAMILIA TREE

SHOWING THE LEGACY OF ÆTHELRED II AND ÆLFGIFU OF YORK TAKING THE MAYERNAL LINE GUEST TO GILES GEST (C. 1490-1557)

Ethelred II the Unready = Ædgyth of York (Maternal) [265]

They had a daughter, Edith who married Earl Ædric Streona son of Æthelric.

Parents of Edith who married Ædric.

Princess Ædgyth of England (Maternal) = Earl Ædric Streona[266]

Parents of a daughter who married Æthelgar (Gest per se.)

They are the parents of Siward Bishop of Rochester, also known as Siward Grossus (the fat).

? Unknown Miss Stretona, daughter of Edith and Ædric Streona = **Æthelgar (Patriline)**[267]

Of Combe and Guestling, Sussex, son of Archbishop of Canterbury, Æthelgar [Gest] (c. 945–990 *A.D.).*

Siward Grossus [268]

Son of the daughter of Eadric Streona and Edith, Ethelred II and Edith's daughter.[269] *Siward the father of Sigeraed "Sired" of Chilham, Kent.* Ælfgyva, *daughter of Earl Godwine and Gytha, Thorkelsdóttir.*

Siward of Chilham

Son of Siward Grossus and father of Sibi of Chilham

Sibi of Chilham, Magnate and Canon of St Margaret's Dover = Ælfgyva Godwinedottir[270]

Parents of Sired/Sigeraed, Cannon of Dover[271] *& Saeric of Wiltshire 7 Buckinghamshire, and Gest"* [272] [273] [274]

Sired (Sigered) of Chilham, Cannon of Dover**; Særic;** and Gest

Son of Sigeraed and Ælfgyva's Godwine's dóttir, and brother of Sigeraed Canon of Dover

Godmund/Guthmund [275] [276]

Son of Særic probable father of Gilbert and Benwoldus

Gilbert the Stranger

Of Norfolk & Sussex, son of Godmund Gest

Benwoldus Gest

Of Sussex, son of Godmund Gest, father of Samual Gest of Gestling

Alan de Lega [277] [278]

of Lega (Highley) Shropshire

Thomas de Lega/Sometimes Gest [279] [280]

Of Lega (Highley) Shropshire, assumed elder brother of Bertram de Gestling (c, 1152-) late of Gestling, Sussex and also likely known as Bertram de Hershorne of Derbyshire and likely also brothers of John de Gestlyng (c. 1155-1219), justice of Norfolk.[281]

Continued ...

265 Williams, A. (1995, p. 91). The English and the Norman Conquest. Woodbridge, UK

266 Ibid, Williams, A. (1995, p. 91).

267 Ibid, Williams, A. (1995, p. 91).

268 British History Online Bishops of Rochester

269 Ibid, Williams, A. (1995, p. 91).

270 Ibid, The National Archives [UK], Place name: Lower Pollicott, Upper Pollicott, Buckinghamshire Folio: 147r.

271 The National Archives [UK], Buckinghamshire Folio: 147r.

272 The National Archives [UK], Buckinghamshire Folio: 147r.

273 Open Domesday, "Costock", Lords in 1066: Saeric; Saeric's brothers. Nottinghamshire folio

274 National Archives, Sigeraed of Chilham, St Martin's Dover, E - Records of the Exchequer, and its related bodies, with those of the Office of First Fruits and Tenths, and the Court of Augmentations; Division within E - Records of the Treasury of the Receipt; E 31 - Exchequer: Treasury of the Receipt: Domesday Book etc; E 31/2/1 - Great Domesday: Kent, Sussex.

275 PASE Domesday analysts for "Godmund 5" cite: K. S. B. Keats-Rohan, Domesday People: A Prosopography of Persons Occurring in English Documents 1066–1166: Domesday Book (Woodbridge, 1999).

276 Open Domesday record and image for Sarnesfield. Holder 1086: Saeric father of Godmund. Phillimore reference: Herefordshire 10,53. Hereford folio. 12.

277 Eyton, R. W. (1855, p. 313). Antiquities of Shropshire.

278 The Norman and Their Existing Descendants in the British Dominion and the United States" by H.S King & Company.

279 Ibid, Eyton, R. W. (1855, p. 313).

280 Ibid, 1874, The Norman and Their Existing Descendants by H.S. King Publishing.

281 Page, W. & Salzmann, L.F. (1907, p179). "A History of Sussex." Victoria County History (VCH) [of Sussex].

Leonard de Gest [282] [283]

of Lega (Highley) Shropshire. Cousins of Walter Guest[284] *& Leonard Guest*[285]

Roger Gest [286] [287]

of Lega (Highley) Shropshire

Thomas Gest

Son of Thomas le Gest

Adam le Gest II c1265-c1320

Son of Adam le Gest I

Laurence Guest c. 1300-1360 of Somerset

Son of Laurence

Rogerus Gest c.1330-c. 1395 = Isabella c. 1338- aft. 1379

Son of Laurence

John (Johannes) Gestlyng c1358- abt. 1422

John Gestlyng the juror born Yorkshire late of Staffordshire

Son of Rogerus Gest

Thomas Gest (c. 1398-1468)

Son of John Gestlyng. Likely given the name John or Roger and resumed the non-extended patronymic "Gest".

William Gest (c. 1429c. 1495)

Son of Gest

Thomas Gest (c.1468-c. 1510) = Elizabeth Brandisby

Father of Wiliam Gest his heir and Thomas Gest (father of Thomas Gest, father of Bishop Edmund Gest [born Yorkshire] and Elizabeth Millington, nee Gest, late of Tewkesbury. The wife of Thomas Gest the elder Eizabeth is considered to the daughter of Agnes Brandisby, nee Corby, wife of Mr. Brandisby.

Thomas Gest c1488-aft 1540 = Unknown

Father of Bishop Edmund Gest (1514-1577) and Elizabeth Millington, nee Gest of Tewkesbury

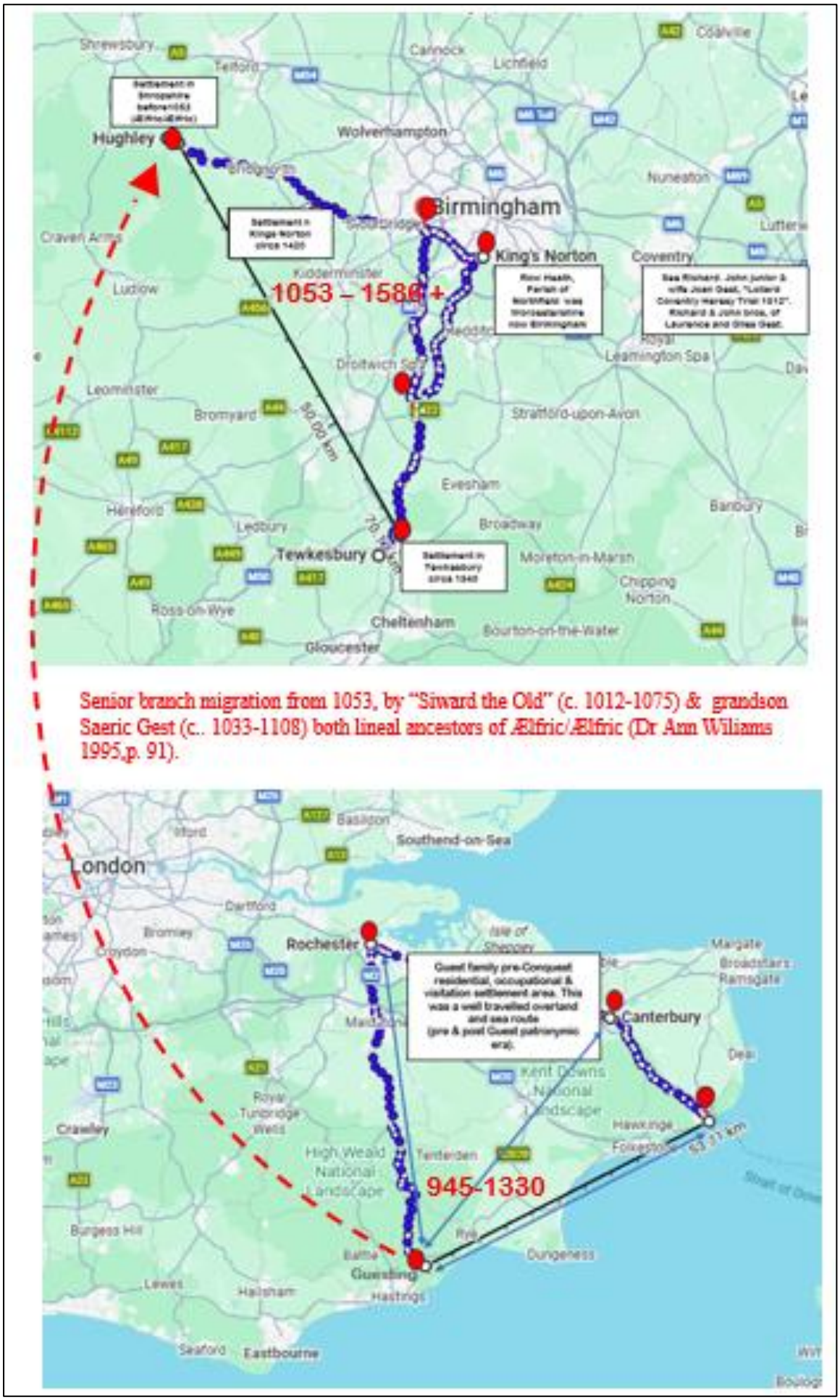
John Gest c1470-abt 1537 = Margaret Hawkes c. 1462-

Of Row Heath, King's Norton, Worcestershire. Later of Handsworth, Staffordshire. Father of John junior, Rihcard, Laurence and Giles Gest. Margaret is the daughter of Knight, Thomas Hawkes. John is the younger brother of Thomas Gest (c. 1468-) the father of Thomas Gest (c. 1488-Aft. 1540) late of Tewkesbury, who in turn is father of Bishop Edmund Gest (1514-1577) and Elizabeth Milington, ne Gest also late of Tewkesbury. (Gile's nephew and niece).

Giles Gest c1490-1557 = Alice Styles (d 15810-Aft. 1)

Of Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, England. Son of John and Margaret Ghest, nee Hawkes of Handsworth, Staffordshire. Giles cousin, Thomas Gest (c. 1490-Aft. 1540), father of Bishop Edmund Gest and Elizabeth Millington, nee Gest brought with them to Tewkesbury circa 1540, Protestantism.

[282] Ibid, Eyton, R. W. (1855, p. 313).
[283] Ibid, 1874, The Norman and Their Existing Descendants by H.S. King Publishing.
[284] Ibid, Eyton, R. W. (1855, p. 313).
[285] Ibid, Eyton, R. W. (1855, p. 313).
[286] Ibid, Eyton, R. W. (1855, p. 313).
[287] Ibid, 1874, The Norman and Their Existing Descendants by H.S. King Publishing.


Hughley
Birmingham
King's Norton
Coventry
1053 – 1586 +
90.00 km
Tewkesbury
Settlement in Tewkesbury circa 1040
Senior branch migration from 1053, by "Siward the Old" (c. 1012-1075) & grandson Saeric Gest (c.. 1033-1108) both lineal ancestors of Ælfric/Ælfric (Dr Ann Wiliams 1995,p. 91).
London
Rochester
Guest family pre-Conquest residential, occupational & visitation settlement area. This was a well travelled overland and sea route (pre & post Guest patronymic era).
Canterbury
945-1330
63.11 km
Guestling

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PART 9 – DETERMINATIONS

Findings

If the current researcher's analytical and synthesised conclusions drawn from the new evidence, including state document records corroborate similar findings regarding family structure and their roles within the main tree, are not misleading, it be reasonably concluded that:

1) The family structure introduced in Book 1 remains unchanged, consisting of two primary branches: Tewkesbury and Handsworth, both originating from Saeric. Importantly, the Tewkesbury branch intersects with the Handsworth line, both linked to the original lineage in King’s Norton.

2) This family relationship necessitates a correction to the information presented in Book 1, which states that Gyles Guest (c. 1498-1557) and his brother John Guest (1480-1561) junior are the sons of John and Margaret Guest, née Hawkes, from Handsworth. They had four sons, likely born in the following order and written in modern English: John Guest Junior (pre-deceased his father), Richard Guest Senior, Laurence Guest, and Gyles Guest. Their father, John, was the younger son of Thomas Guest (c. 1468–c. 1518), who was the heir to his father William Gest (c. 1429- 1493)’s Guest estate and lands in King’s Norton, Worcestershire.

3) The evidence presented further supports the key details regarding four grants of Guest arms and two additional legal presentations of arms inheritance through family shields. This includes the T.B. Guest family from Melbourne and Major Josiah Guest’s remarkable sculptural display at Westminster Abbey. All of these are linked to the original grant awarded to Gyles Guest, which was likely by his father, John, ultimately tracing back to their ancestor, Saeric (c. 1035-1108), who is believed to have been born in Guestling, Sussex, thereby connecting these branches to the Guest family tree.

4) The evidence collected and the insights provided by the researchers create a detailed and engaging narrative that closely aligns with the facts, highlighting strong and transferable family ties among those with the surname Guest. Additionally, it presents a fresh perspective on the histories of Ireland and England prior to 1620, offering valuable accounts of everyday lives and significant events. This information can be beneficial to scholars, historians, and researchers, tracing back to the 1066 conquest and even further to the late Anglo-Saxon period, as far back as A.D. 945.

5) From 1500 to 1620, the Guest family encountered significant challenges, including involvement in heresy trials and the initial phases of the Anglican Reformation. They were instrumental in stabilising the Church of England during Elizabeth I's reign, serving as moderates in Ireland and as parishioners of the emerging Church of Ireland community.

6) Moreover, this study of the Guest family reveals a robust ecclesiastical legacy, linear and collateral, extending back to the pre-Conquest era. Generationally and pre-Anglicism ecclesial occupations intertwined with the Church of Rome and enriched by local Anglo-Saxon traditions. Plausible is assisting Edmund to constructively influence successful negotiations for Elizabeth I’s fledgling Church of England with Church of Rome’s Marian Commissioners in spring 1559.

Continued …

7) In the oppressive environment of 17th-century Ireland, Captain Lionel Guest (1560-1610 or 1620) bravely, but secretly until now, championed the rights of indigenous Roman Catholics, surrendered rebels, and the mistreated, as well as those of English soldiers and civilian administrators under Sir Oliver Lambert. Knighted in 1604 at Leixlip, Kildare, near Dublin, Lionel served honourably as the stepfather and guardian of David O'Dubhda (1544-1594)'s son, David, and ensured his biological father's property came to him and his slain father, a chieftain wished.

8) Lionel Guest honourable conduct in the eyes of the Irish people is evident facilitating his cousins' successful settlement in Ireland from1663, where they, father and son duo John Guest, became respected members of both the English adventurer and indigenous Irish communities, including the Roman Catholic population, through later marriages of their offspring to indigenous Irish maidens, Egan, Costello's and Connolly.

9) Despite the civil unrest in Tipperary from the time the Guests arrived around 1738, the Guest family remained uninvolved in conflict during both the Victorian post-Victorian periods, proudly upholding their Irish heritage in Tipperary to this day, with both Anglo and indigenous Irish blood running through the veins of the descendants of the Guest patronymic originals who left Tewkesbury for Dublin, Ireland, in 1663.

10) Lionel Guest put his life in danger by speaking out in 1600, and history vindicates him as most honourable for standing up for the meek, as the Parliamentary History of Britain continues to document Captain Lionel Guest's thoughtful, considered, and accurate stance against the privileged oppressor.

11) Through his second marriage, Lionel became the stepfather of David O’Doubah (O’Dowde) (c. 1594-), the biological son of chieftain David Doubah (1544-1594), who was slain at Castle Cooner, Sligo. Lionel Guest embraced this role as the younger’s legal guardian, ensuring that his biological father’s property and possessions passed on to his son, while his widow, Lionel’s wife, Lady Ellinor Gyuest, was O’Dubhda and born Lyen (Lyon).

12) This recent study highlights the relationship Særic Gest and his son Godmund, tracing his ancestry back to his parents' lineage the help of Dr. Ann William's genealogical table (1993, p. 91) to the father of Siward Grossus, Ethelgar and through Siward’s mother cognatically to Ethelred II and spouse Edith of Your, his first wife.

13) The trace reveals a continuous line of-level ecclesiastical appointments following Saeric. This lineage has created a dynasty of clerics among family members.

14) Domesday establish Aleuea as Ælfgyva as the sister of Harold II and Queen Edith (Ædgyth), the wife of Edward the Confessor, and the daughter of Earl Godwine Countess Gytha (Gyöa) Thorgildatter anchored as such by Searle (1899) (See also Woods, 2024 on Searle’s 1899 genealogy of the Godwin family).

15) Scene-15, may depict mother Sired and Saeric’s mother Ælfgyva, daughter of Godwin and Gytha along with the Cleric to be her and her husband Sibie or son Sired.

Conclusions

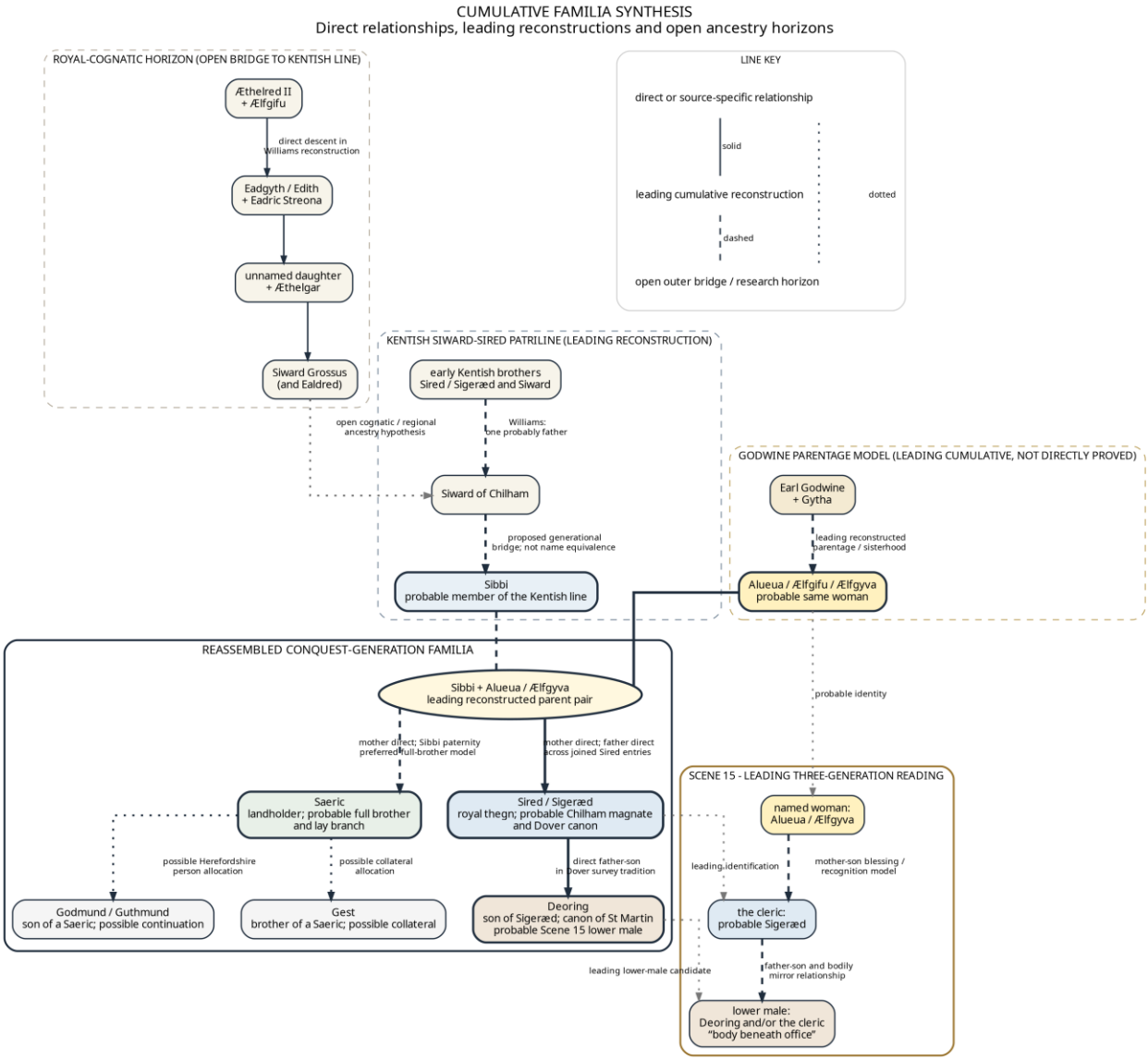
The research indicates that reconstituted made by evidence Særic is the son of Aleuea / Ælfgyva sister of Harold II, as Earl Harold evidence by Domesday book listings. She is the daughter of Godwin and Gytha and one of the many siblings.

Saeric is provisionally and most probably the direct descendant of Ethelred II and Queen Edith [of York], through extension of a reconstituted table anchored firmly to Dr. Ann Williams (1995, p. 91) genealogical table.

Saeric cognatic line from the royal pair flows through Siward Grossus and reconstituted through his son Siward of Chilham > Sibi of Chilham > Saeric. Saeric being the brother of Sired of Chilham and Gest who more likely than not perished in the year 1066.

There is a connect with the visual images and naming of Aleuea as Ælfgyva and the Cleric in Scene 15 worthy of further serious inquiry.

Separate research is warranted for a deep dive into the life of Edgar the Atheling as Edgar II and what may be further extracted from Edgar as Earl of Oxford.


CUMULATIVE FAMILIA SYNTHESIS
Direct relationships, leading reconstructions and open ancestry horizons
ROYAL-COGNATIC HORIZON (OPEN BRIDGE TO KENTISH LINE)
Æthelred II + Ælfgifu
direct descent in Williams reconstruction
Eadgyth / Edith + Eadric Streona
unnamed daughter + Æthelgar
Siward Grossus (and Ealdred)
LINE KEY
direct or source-specific relationship
solid
leading cumulative reconstruction
dotted
dashed
open outer bridge / research horizon
KENTISH SIWARD-SIRED PATRILINE (LEADING RECONSTRUCTION)
early Kentish brothers Sired / Sigeræd and Siward
open cognatic / regional ancestry hypothesis
Williams: one probably father
Siward of Chilham
proposed generational bridge; not name equivalence
Sibbi probable member of the Kentish line
GODWINE PARENTAGE MODEL (LEADING CUMULATIVE, NOT DIRECTLY PROVED)
Earl Godwine + Gytha
leading reconstructed parentage / sisterhood
Alueua / Ælfgifu / Ælfgyva probable same woman
probable identity
REASSEMBLED CONQUEST-GENERATION FAMILIA
Sibbi + Alueua / Ælfgyva leading reconstructed parent pair
mother direct; Sibbi paternity preferred full-brother model
mother direct; father direct cross joined Sired entries
Saeric landholder; probable full brother and lay branch
Sired / Sigeræd royal thegn; probable Chilham magnate and Dover canon
possible Herefordshire person allocation
possible collateral allocation
direct father-son in Dover survey tradition
Godmund / Guthmund son of a Saeric; possible continuation
Gest brother of a Saeric; possible collateral
Deoring son of Sigeræd; canon of St Martin probable Scene 15 lower male
SCENE 15 - LEADING THREE-GENERATION READING
named woman: Alueua / Ælfgyva
leading identification
mother-son blessing / recognition model
the cleric: probable Sigeræd
leading lower-male candidate
father-son and bodily mirror relationship
lower male: Deoring and/or the cleric "body beneath office"

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ATTACHMENT A

Reconstructing kinship groups through records triangulation

A methodological framework for family reconstitution

Records triangulation functions as the core analytical process, or mechanism, while family reconstitution serves as the definitive structural outcome, or product, when rebuilding historical kinship groups.

When working without primary records - such as missing birth or marriage certificates - genealogists and historical demographers must rely on a systematic methodology to establish relationships. By integrating independent, indirect data sources, researchers can confidently assemble a verified family group on the balance of probabilities.

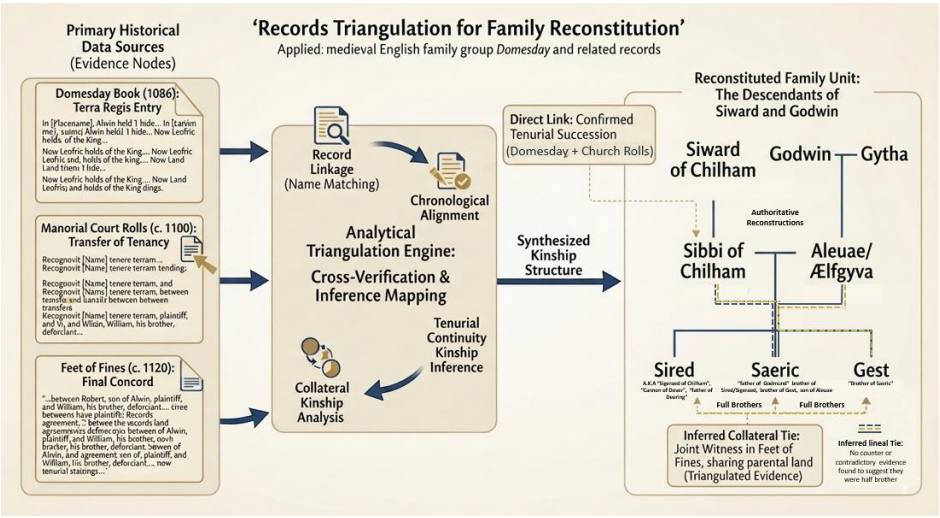
The Analytical Framework

To understand how these concepts operate together, it is useful to view them through a clear Method-versus-Product paradigm:

- **Records Triangulation (the method)** is the precise analytical framework used to cross-examine historical data. It requires a minimum of three independent, indirect records that intersect at a common point. Because a single indirect source is vulnerable to bias or error, combining multiple data streams safeguards the researcher from being misled. It validates a hypothesis by ensuring that disparate data fragments consistently point to the same structural conclusion.

- **Family Reconstitution (the product)** is the final product achieved once triangulation successfully establishes the links. Reconstitution is the formal technique of compiling fragmented demographic and life-history events into a unified, reconstructed family unit.

As a methodology, family reconstitution is defined as "the technique of linking records of demographic events... within and between individual lives to recreate individual life histories and the histories of families" (Demographic Techniques: Family Reconstitution). The following process diagram illustrates how records triangulation feeds directly into the final family reconstitution.


'Records Triangulation for Family Reconstitution'
Applied: medieval English family group Domesday and related records
Primary Historical Data Sources (Evidence Nodes)
Domesday Book (1086): Terra Regis Entry
Manorial Court Rolls (c. 1100): Transfer of Tenancy
Feet of Fines (c. 1120): Final Concord
Record Linkage (Name Matching)
Chronological Alignment
Analytical Triangulation Engine:
Cross-Verification & Inference Mapping
Tenurial Continuity Kinship Inference
Collateral Kinship Analysis
Direct Link: Confirmed Tenurial Succession (Domesday + Church Rolls)
Synthesized Kinship Structure
Reconstituted Family Unit: The Descendants of Siward and Godwin
Siward of Chilham
Godwin
Gytha
Authoritative Reconstructions
Sibbi of Chilham
Aleuae/ Ælfgyva
Sired
Saeric
Gest
Full Brothers
Full Brothers
Inferred Collateral Tie: Joint Witness in Feet of Fines, sharing parental land (Triangulated Evidence)
Inferred lineal Tie:

Conceptual Schema

Methodological Application

When direct evidence is absent, records triangulation moves through a strict sequence to achieve a valid family reconstitution:

- Source Gathering: Assembling distinct, unlinked records such as probate files, tax lists, land boundaries, and witness signatures.
- Comparative Analysis: Cross-checking names, dates, and geographic spaces across all collected items to verify that they refer to the same individuals.
- Discrepancy Resolution: Identifying and accounting for any conflicting information between the records to maintain structural integrity.
- Synthesis: Linking the validated identities together to officially declare a reconstructed family unit supported by circumstantial proof.

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